

Early Years Campus

Pre-K3 Teacher

Lynn Elder, lelder@ndacademy.org

Ms. Elder joins us from Horizon Christian School in Suwanee where she was the Director of the 4-Year Old Program and Lead Teacher, responsible for nine teachers and 86 children. She has been an Early Education Teacher since 1991.

Pr e-K4 Teachers

Diane Joyce, djoyce@ndacademy.org

Ms. Diane Joyce was former teacher of the year and has twice been nominated for Who's Who Among America's Teachers by former students. She is certified to teach in four areas. After spending several years teaching middle school, she took a job teaching Pre-K and has loved working with four-year olds.

Whitney Hess, whess@ndacademy.org

Ms. Hess joined Notre Dame Academy in 2008 from St. Jude the Apostle School in Atlanta. She was an Assistant Teacher at St. Jude for two years. Ms. Hess' teaching experience is in kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grades. Prior to teaching, she was a licensed Realtor in the Atlanta area for 2 years. Ms. Hess has a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from Mercer University, and a Bachelors Degree from Auburn University.

Malinda Johnson, mjohnson@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Johnson joins us from the Friendship Christian School in Cumming, Ga. She has a Masters in Early education from Wheelock College in Boston and a Bachelors of Science in Child Development and Family Studies from West Virginia University. Mrs. Johnson also has experience in Curriculum Implementation and teacher training at the Child Care, Pre-K and Kindergarten levels. This is her first year at Notre Dame Academy.

Kindergarten Teachers

Bernice Leonard, bleonard@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Bernice Leonard is from South Africa and has over 17 years of teaching experience. She sent her resume to Notre Dame Academy, because she was seeking a teaching position that will benefit from her international experience. She has taught preschool through 3rd Grade and has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education.

Alanna Moore, amoore@ndacademy.org

Ms. Moore comes to Notre Dame from Beaver Ridge Elementary School in Norcross where she was a Kindergarten-Paraprofessional. With over 15 years of teaching experience, she has taught students in Kindergarten through 6th Grade, as well as elementary foreign language. Ms. Moore has a Bachelor of Arts, German Education/German Studies from Dillard University in New Orleans.

Tracy Roome, troome@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Roome is from South Africa and has a Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education specializing in math. She has over 16 years of experience and previously taught 4th Grade in DeKalb County.

Elementary School

1st Grade Teachers

Dana Landers, dlanders@ndacademy.org

Ms. Landers has taught both Kindergarten and 1st Grade and has worked as an Early Intervention Teacher at various schools in Georgia, including Findley Oaks Elementary in Duluth where she was named Teacher of the Year. She also has been nominated for the Braves Teacher of the Year Award and has taught both advanced students and students in need of extra help. She likewise piloted a special program at the Primrose School of Christopher Robin that combined kindergarten and 1st Grade. Ms. Landers has her Bachelors Degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Georgia and her Masters in Teaching from Piedmont College. This is her 14th year in education.

Lauren Meurer, lmeurer@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Meurer joins our faculty from High Point Elementary School in Atlanta. She has seven years experience and is a Cum Laude graduate of Xavier University. She was awarded "Outstanding First Year Teacher" by the McIntosh Trail Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa in 2004.

Irene Nowicki, inowicki@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Nowicki began her teaching career in Maryland, where she worked for 8 years as a 1st Grade teacher. Later, she moved to Texas where she taught Kindergarten for 3 years and founded a creative writing and art magazine for Elementary School children. Mrs. Nowicki lived in South Africa for 5 years and has traveled extensively in Africa, Europe, Singapore, and Thailand and can speak Polish. Mrs. Nowicki has her Masters Degree in Elementary Education from Johns Hopkins University. Mrs. Nowicki had completed Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program Certification.

2nd Grade Teachers

Mary Lowzinski, m_lowzinski@ndacademy.org

Ms. Lowzinski comes to us from Holy Spirit Preparatory School in Atlanta where she taught 2nd Grade. Her prior educational experience includes teaching 2nd Grade at Stonewall Tell Elementary School in College Park, as well as being an EIP Teacher in 2nd, 4th, and 5th Grade in College Park. Previous to being an educator, Ms. Lowzinski was a Consultant of Business Metrics with Deloitte & Touche LLP in McLean, VA. She has a Bachelor of Science in Management Science and Information Technology—Decision Support Systems from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education from Georgia State University.

Susan Murphy, smurphy@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Murphy joins Notre Dame Academy from Christ the King School in Atlanta where she taught 2nd Grade for two years. Previously, she was a Physical Education Teacher at Christ the King. Mrs. Murphy has a Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education from Georgia State University. She is certified to teach Elementary Education (K-5) and Health and Physical Education (Pre-K-12). This is Mrs. Murphy's third year at Notre Dame Academy and twelfth year teaching overall.

Mandy Crock, mcrock@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Crock is starting her second year at Notre Dame Academy for 2009-2010. She is a Marist graduate and attended Furman University, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She received a Master of Arts in Early Education from Oglethorpe University. She taught seven years at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic School in Atlanta. Her professional development includes training in Orton-Gillingham Reading Program, certification from BJ Testing and Evaluation, serving on the Religious Education Commission and completion of In-Tech.

Elementary School

3rd Grade Teachers

Joanne Burford jburford@ndacademy.org

Born, raised, and educated in England, Ms. Swain comes to Notre Dame Academy with five years of teaching experience, two of which in England and most recently for three years at Mimosa Elementary School in Fulton County where she was nominated twice for Teacher of the Year, and won Fulton County's Cultural Educator of the Year Award for 2006-2007. She has a Bachelors Degree from the University of Brighton and a Masters Degree in Education from Canterbury Christ Church University College (specializing in ages 5-11).

Kristen O'Brien, kobrien@ndacademy.org

Ms. O'Brien has been in the education profession for 14 years. While teaching at Pinckneyville Middle School in Norcross, Ms. O'Brien was a finalist for Teacher of the Year and nominated for the Teacher of Promise Award. She also taught at Holy Trinity Catholic School in Charlotte, NC and has tutored Elementary School students for eight years. Ms. O'Brien is a Marist graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Emory University and a Master of Education from Georgia State University.

Patti Phillips, pPhillips@ndacademy.org

Ms. Phillips comes to Notre Dame Academy the Forsyth County School System where she was on temporary staff teaching students in Kindergarten through 5th Grade and the Gifted Program. She was also a full time 3rd Grade Teacher. She has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the College of Charleston in Charleston, South Carolina. Ms. Phillips also spent 7 years teach 5th Grade Faith Formation at her Parish.

4th Grade Teachers

Elizabeth Callahan, ecallahan@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Callahan has been an educator for fifteen years, and this is her fourth year at NDA. She has undergraduate degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in elementary and special education. Her master's degree is in curriculum and instruction in literacy from Lesley University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mrs. Callahan has taught in special needs classes as well as grades four, five, and six in Atlanta as well as in Brandon, Florida; Naperville, Illinois; and Mansfield, Massachusetts.

Douglas Mogle, dmogle@ndacademy.org

Mr. Mogle comes to Notre Dame with experience teaching first through fifth graders in Fulton County and the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education from Ball State University and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Notre Dame. He was previously the Director, University of Arizona / Santa Cruz Catholic School Tutoring Program. Mr. Mogle is a member of the National Catholic Education Association and The Alliance for Catholic Education Fellowship.

5th Grade Teachers

Tai Romero, tromero@ndacademy.org

Ms. Tai Romero joins our faculty from St. Frances Cabrini in Savannah where she was a 4th Grade teacher. She holds her Masters of Education from the University of Notre Dame. She has participated for the past three years in the University's Alliance for Catholic Education program. When Mrs. Derucki met Tai at the Archdiocesan Job Fair she informed Ms. Orr that we had to hire "this one." Ms. Romero has taught 4th and 5th grades over the past five years and has spent the past two summers teaching a literary course titled "Heroes and Villains" for Johns Hopkins University's Center for Talented Youth.

Moira Zapata, mzapeta@ndacademy.org

Ms. Zapata comes to Notre Dame from Parsons Elementary in Gwinnett County. The one-time Teacher of the Year received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Rutgers University and has her Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education from Kean University of New Jersey. Ms. Zapata is currently working on her Masters in Education with Walden University, which she plans to finish next year.

Middle School

6th Grade Homeroom Teachers

Christopher Moore, cmoore@ndacademy.org

Mr. Moore joins our faculty from St. Jude the Apostle School in Atlanta. Mr. Moore is one of those unique teachers who impress you the moment you see him in the classroom. He states in his "philosophy of teaching" that his goal is to help his students "become productive members of this growing global community." He has a Bachelors Degree in History from the University of Georgia and has completed his Masters of Arts in Teaching in Broad Field Social Studies from Piedmont College. He is currently pursuing his Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Studies Education. This is Mr. Moore's 5th year at Notre Dame Academy.

Jan Snider, jsnider@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Snider is in her 4th year teaching at Notre Dame Academy and has 14 years of experience as a Catholic educator, most recently teaching at St. Mary's Elementary School in Annapolis, Maryland. At St. Mary's, Mrs. Snider was the lead teacher of mathematics and focused on developing activities that integrated technology, provided hands-on manipulative, and engaged co-operative learning activities and problem solving models. She has her Masters Degree in Education from John Hopkins University. Mrs. Snider also teaches Middle School Science and 6th Grade Math.

7th and 8th Grade Teachers

Barbara Findley, Middle School Math Coordinator and Teacher, bfindley@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Findley has served as the math department chair for Pinecrest Academy, Wesleyan School, and Saint David's School, and she also worked a number of years as a math teacher at Marist School. She is a member the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and has won awards for both her teaching and her distinguished service. She also competed twice as a Jeopardy contestant in 1974 and 1997. Mrs. Findley has a Master's Degree in Secondary Mathematics Education from Georgia State University.

Joan Janoszewski, Middle School Coordinator and Teacher of Religious Education, jjanoszewski@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Janoszewski comes to Notre Dame with 27 years of teaching experience in the Archdiocese of New York. Mrs. Janoszewski has a Bachelors Degree in English from Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont, where she was a Presidential Scholar and earned Phi Beta Kappa in three years. She received her Masters Degree in Education from the College of St. Rose, Albany, New York and has two levels of catechetical certification from the Archdiocese of New York. Mrs. Janoszewski has permanent New York State Certification at the elementary and high school levels. She has taught and supervised the teaching of English, Religion, Science, and Math at the elementary and middle school levels at various times in her career. Mrs. Janoszewski has taught Religion in several parish programs, as well as in Catholic elementary schools, and has headed Christian Ecumenical Summer Sessions for area councils of churches in New York.

Julia Derucki, 7th Grade Language Arts jderucki@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Derucki has spent 20 years teaching and working exclusively in Catholic schools in Indiana, Florida, and Georgia. She has taught 2nd-8th Grade and served in administrative positions, including Dean of Students at a K-8th inner-city school and Dean of Academics. She piloted the NDA 8th Grade Annual "International Trip" and has traveled with the students to Japan, Italy, and Ireland, as well as founded a literacy program at NDA that has generated a further love of reading in elementary and middle school students. Mrs. Derucki is a member of the National Catholic Education Association, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and was nominated by parents for both the Atlanta Journal and Constitution (AJC) Teacher of the Year in 2002 and Disney's Teacher of the Year in 2003. She has a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ball State University, graduate courses in Educational Leadership from Indiana University-Purdue University Institute, and a Master's in Education from Spring Hill College.

Middle School

7th and 8th Grade Teachers—Continued

John Findley, 7th and 8th Grade Social Studies jfindley@ndacademy.org

Mr. Findley has served over 35 years in public and private education in the Atlanta area. The first eleven years of his career was spent in DeKalb County schools; teaching history and other social studies courses while coaching football and track. Mr. Findley's private school experience began at Marist School. While at Marist Mr. Findley taught history, coached football and basketball, and was the Dean of Student Discipline. After a brief stint in Manhattan, New York at York Preparatory School; Mr. Findley worked at Wesleyan School as their first History Department Chairman and at Pinecrest Academy as Academic Coordinator. Mr. Findley is a member of the National Council for Social Studies and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. He has a Master's degree in Secondary Education and History and a Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Georgia State University.

Maria Rios, Spanish Teacher, mrrios@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Rios moved to the United States from Mexico and is a 7th grade homeroom teacher. She has worked as an ESL instructor at institutions ranging from Gwinnett Technical College to the Marist's University of Monterrey in Mexico. She is certified in Georgia as a Spanish teacher and has provided private lessons for numerous years. She is fluent in both Spanish and English and has her Masters Degree in Education from the University of Monterrey.

Paraprofessionals

Christine Dolgetta, Pre-K Paraprofessional, cdolgetta@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Dolgetta comes to us from Horizon Christian School in Suwanee where she was a Preschool Teacher Assistant. She has also been a Religious Education Teacher at Prince of Peace Catholic Church and St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Mrs. Dolgetta attended the Weaver Academy of Aeronautics in Kansas City, MO for two years.

Kimberly Johnson, Pre-K Paraprofessional, kjohnson@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Johnson brings seven years of professional experience in Customer Service at Ford Motor Credit Company and in Office Management at Winter, Wyman & Co. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from the University of Georgia.

Nedge Nicholas-Douyan, Pre-K Paraprofessional, nnicholasdouyan@ndacademy.org

Ms. Nicholas-Douyan comes to Notre Dame from the Atlanta Language Center—Suzuki Learning Center in Atlanta where she was a French Teacher for Pre-K2 to Kindergarten. She has experience with activities related to children including being a volunteer in Vacation Bible School, field trips, school library, and book fair.

Nina Dunlap, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, ndunlap@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Dunlap joins the faculty with more than nine years of experience working in the educational field. She comes to Notre Dame Academy from Horizon Christian School in Suwanee, where she served as an Assistant Teacher. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting from the University of Commerce, Bangkok, Thailand.

Elizabeth Law, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, elaw@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Law joins our faculty with an extensive teaching background. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education.

Lisa Martinez, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, lmartinez@ndacademy.org

Ms. Martinez has been a substitute teacher responsible for the care of students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade. She graduated from The Center for Legal Studies at the University of Georgia for Paralegals.

Kelly Quinn, Kindergarten Paraprofessional, kquinn@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Quinn comes to Notre Dame Academy from Cross & Crown Day School where she was a preschool teacher for several years. She also worked at the school's summer camps. Mrs. Quinn has been involved in teaching in her parish Religious Education program. She has a Bachelors Degree from Loyola University.

Cathy Bergwall, 1st Grade Paraprofessional, cbergwall@ndacademy.org

Ms. Bergwall comes to Notre Dame after working at Horizon Christian School as a Preschool Assistant Teacher. She says that after more than 15 years in marketing and corporate investment finance, she began working in early childhood education as a paraprofessional and found her true "calling". Ms. Bergwall has her Georgia Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education and a Masters in Business Administration from Ohio State.

Kathy Paryzek, First Grade Paraprofessional, kparyzek@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Paryzek has been in the Early Childhood Field for over 20 years. Previously, she taught and assisted at Pinecrest Academy in Pre-K and Kindergarten. She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Secondary Physical Education from Memphis State University and her Associate Degree in Orthotics from Shelby State Community College.

Debbie Montesana, 1st Grade Paraprofessional, dmentesana@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Montesana joins us this year as a 1st Grade Paraprofessional. Debbie attended Hofstra University. Since then, she has held several educational positions including Parish School Religious Coordinator at St Brigid's Catholic Church, substitute teacher in Cobb County, Center Director and Teacher at Kinder Care Learning Centers. Mrs. Montesana currently has two children attending Notre Dame Academy.

Marisol DeLopez, Spanish Paraprofessional, mdelopez@ndacademy.org

Ms. DeLopez is a college graduate with seven years in the educational field. She has worked with students in after school programs and programs preparing children to take standardized testing. For the past two years, Mrs. DeLopez has been working as a Pre-K Paraprofessional at NDA's Early Years Campus. She is bilingual in Spanish and English. Mrs. DeLopez has a dental degree from the University of Central Venezuela.

Paraprofessionals – Cont.

Sonya Loflin, Media Center and Science Lab Paraprofessional, loflin@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Loflin joins Notre Dame with seven years of experience in religious education, practicum, student teaching, and substitute teaching . She aspires to teach Biology to middle school students and is interested in implementing an after-school exercise program for girls. Mrs. Loflin has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of North Alabama and a T-4 Teaching Certificate from the University of Georgia.

Specials Teachers

Kimberly Biggs, Religion Teacher, kbiggsndacademy.org

Mrs. Biggs comes to Notre Dame with seven years of elementary school teaching experience in Florida and Georgia. She is a graduate of Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

Mercedes Fernandez, Spanish Teacher, mfernandez@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Fernandez has over 16 years experience as a Spanish Teacher including 10 years in various Atlanta private Catholic schools and begins her fifth year as part of the Notre Dame faculty. From Georgia State University she earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Spanish with a focus on child development. Mrs. Fernandez devised the original Spanish program K-8th at Queen of Angels, including an advanced Middle School Spanish program which earned her students honors placement in their high school foreign language studies. She is a member of FLAG and NNELL and has served as Catechist in the Hispanic Ministry (IHM) & as Eucharistic Minister

Maria Rios, Spanish Teacher, mrios@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Rios moved to the United States from Mexico. Sra. Rios is the 7th grade homeroom teacher. She has worked as an ESL instructor at institutions ranging from Gwinnett Technical College to the Marist's University of Monterrey in Mexico. She is certified in Georgia as a Spanish teacher and has provided private lessons for numerous years. She is fluent in both Spanish and English and has her Masters Degree in Education from the University of Monterrey.

Karina Riddett-Moore, Art Teacher, kriddettmoore@ndacademy.org

This is Mrs. Riddett-Moore's third year teaching at Notre Dame Academy. She has a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Art Education from the University of Georgia and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Art/Art Education, also from the University of Georgia. Mrs. Riddett-Moore spent 4 years teaching K-5th grade art in Gwinnett County before taking a 1 year position teaching undergrads at UGA. Her art interests include ceramics, photography, and drawing. Her research focuses on how we can teach with an ethic of care in the art room and how the arts help foster empathy, compassion, and understanding.

Amy LoCurto, Music Teacher alocurto@ndacademy.org

Mrs. LoCurto has her Masters of Music from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Music from Southern Illinois University. Amy also completed her Level 1 Orff Certification . She has nine years experience teaching general music, band, and chorus in the Catholic schools . She comes to NDA from Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Atlanta, where she was the music teacher for the last seven years.

Physical Education Teachers

Ken Oxendine, Athletic Director, PE Teacher, and Community Relations Director, koxendine@ndacademy.org

Mr. Oxendine has an impressive background in sports. During his college years, he was a star football player at Virginia Tech. The honors he received then included the MVP award at the Orange Bowl game. He later went on to play for the Atlanta Falcons as a running back. After an injury ended his professional playing career, he spent time coaching at other institutions before he joined the Notre Dame Academy as a Physical Education Teacher.

Anne-Marie Schaefer, aschaefer@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Schaefer first came to Notre Dame as a parent. The Schaefer family belongs to Mary Our Queen Catholic Church in Norcross. Mrs. Schaefer has a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education with experience with preschool and the YMCA. This will be Mrs. Schaefer's 2nd year at Notre Dame Academy.

Bill Clark, bclark@ndacademy.org

Bill is a Marist graduate (Class of '99) and holds a Master's degree in Sport Administration. He is currently completing a Masters of Education in Health and Physical Science at Georgia State University. Bill coached football and basketball at Holy Spirit Preparatory School for 3 years before pursuing his Masters degree. While at the Marist School, he participated in football, basketball, golf and track. Bill resides in Tucker, GA with his wife Dana. They are expecting their first child in December

Academic Specialists

Lynette Wilson, Primary Years Programme Coordinator, lwilson@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Wilson joins us from Australia where she worked in public and Catholic schools for over 20 years. She was the recipient of the inaugural Executive Director's Exemplary Teacher Award in 2001, which gave her the opportunity to travel to the U.S. on a study trip to research and see Multiple Intelligence Schools and Cooperative Learning Schools. She served as Literacy Coordinator for 11 years and as a mentor teacher for Literacy in the Parramatta Diocese in Sydney. She is a member of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development and the Primary English Teacher's Association.

Cheryl Brown, Media Center Director, cbrown@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Brown has over 14 years of teaching experience and is certified in both language arts and library media technology. She has taught English and worked on curriculum development at high schools in Illinois, Michigan, and Massachusetts. She has spoken at conferences for the National Council of Teachers of English and the Georgia Council of Media Organizations. Mrs. Brown has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Michigan, a Master of Arts degree in English and American Literature from Boston College and has completed the certification program in library media technology at Georgia State University.

Stacey Shields, Learning Specialist, sshields@ndacademy.org

Before coming to Notre Dame Academy, Mrs. Shields was an Educational Consultant for HOSTS Learning. She brings over 20 years of educational experience in both the public and private sectors. This includes running a private tutoring / consulting practice, teaching students with learning disabilities, Pre-K through 12, in various capacities, and presenting at state conferences addressing cross-curriculum efforts to teaching problem solving strategies. Ms. Shields is also Orton-Gillingham certified and was the Department Head for Reading at the Brandon Hall School in Atlanta. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY and a Masters of Science in Special Education from the State University at Albany in NY.

Nancy Walshe, Math Specialist, nwalshe@ndacademy.org

Mrs. Walshe comes to Notre Dame Academy as a new Math Specialist. A graduate of Georgia State University, she has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education and six years experience teaching Everyday Math in all grades.