



Teachers

Berkshire Country Day School

Where you belong.

2011-2012



Our distinct program and commitment to excellence attracts, engages, and retains individuals who are passionate about teaching.

These teachers have access to the tools and the resources they need to be energetic, informed, and creative educators, and positive influences in the lives of our 21st century learners.

They inspire, shape, and impact each student in meaningful ways that extend well beyond the classroom.

They cultivate awareness and originality, instill confidence and model leadership—making the BCD experience one that prepares young people to become critical thinkers, creative individuals, and exemplary citizens of the world.



Katharine Allentuck

Second Grade
rejoined BCD in 2010

B.A., History
Goddard College

M.Ed.
Smith College/Clarke School for the Deaf

Katharine is teaching second grade this year. She taught fourth grade from 1997–2002 and assisted in second grade in 2008. Last year she taught reading at BCD. She received her Masters in Deaf Education from Smith College and Clarke School for the Deaf. Both her children attended Berkshire Country Day School. She enjoys yoga, hiking and rowing.



Geoff Ashworth

History, Physics, Seventh Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 1990

MRSC, Chemistry
Manchester Polytechnic
Manchester, England

MSC, Ph.D., Organic Chemistry
Manchester University
Manchester, England

Geoff worked until 1982 as a chemist in his native England, moving to the US in 1982 to take a position as an Analytical Chemist at Vicks in Shelton, CT. In 1990, Geoff left corporate America to become a teacher at BCD, teaching sixth grade geography, seventh grade English, and eighth grade history. Two years later, he switched from English to science and has been teaching physics at BCD ever since. Geoff also coaches indoor soccer, reflecting a passion he has for the game, in particular supporting the greatest soccer club in the world, his hometown team of Manchester United.



Ellen Hayford Atwater

Preschool
joined BCD in 1994

A.D., Selected Studies
Berkshire Community College

Certificate, Administration in Early Childhood
Cambridge College

B.S., Early Childhood Education
Fitchburg State College

Ellie has been teaching preschool since 1980, when she interned and substituted at Berkshire Center for Families and Children. Once she completed Berkshire Community College, she went on to Fitchburg State College to pursue Early Childhood Education. She has worked in the Berkshires in various roles as an Early Childhood educator, administrator, and EC training specialist for twelve years before coming to BCD. Ellie now lives in Pittsfield, MA and enjoys spending time with her family, working with a variety of art media, gardening and kayaking.



Susan Benner

Science, Biology, Athletic Director
joined BCD in 1992

B.S., Biology
Carleton College

Masters of Public Health
Infectious Diseases & Microbiology
University of Pittsburgh

Susan Benner teaches Upper School science at BCD and oversees and directs our athletic program. Sue offers a great deal as we work to strengthen our program, increase participation, and develop the culture of community around our teams. She is also the coordinator of the eighth grade Everglades trip. Susan's interest in microbiology is evident, as over the years she has taught microbiology at both Sacred Heart University and Fairfield University, and has run microbiology labs at Butler Hospital and Bridgeport Hospital. She is also involved in many different sports, including skating and tennis, and plays the piano.



Amy Brentano

Theater and Film, Ninth Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 2010

BFA
Tisch School of the Arts

Graduate Studies
Interlochen Arts Academy

Amy Brentano is BCD's Theater and Film Director. Amy received a BFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. She is an experienced actor, playwright, director, and teacher, most recently directing a series of highly-acclaimed productions for the Richmond School district and the Berkshire Theatre Festival. Having worked with students of all ages, her energy and vision are impressive. In addition to leading our Upper School program and overseeing our Middle School program, Amy also directs a theater program in grades 1–3.



Kathy Clausen

Reading and Graphic Arts

joined BCD in 1994

B.A., Art
Hunter College of CUNY

M.Ed., Elementary Education
Antioch College

Kathy started teaching at BCD in September of 1994 as a Beginner 3s teacher. Since then she has taught art in Lower School, Upper School and at the High School. She was the yearbook advisor for five issues of the *Penguin*. She taught second grade for eleven years. Kathy was trained as a Waldorf class teacher, and received her Masters in Elementary Education at Antioch New England. Prior to that, she was the Director of Market Communications at Berkshire Corporation in Great Barrington, MA.



Marilyn Cromwell

Art Department Head, Fifth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1983

BFA, Fine Arts
California College of Arts and Crafts

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Teaching
Lesley University

For more than 30 years, what Marilyn has said she loves about teaching art at BCD is that it's a place where there are no mistakes. In her classroom, whether it's sculpture, painting, clay, print-making, drawing, or fiber arts, "there's always more than one answer to any problem students are trying to solve." She believes that "the Arts provide the opportunity to become creative problem solvers for our complex, global world." Marilyn enjoys the outdoors, gardening, travel, and especially art making. She lives with her husband and family in South Egremont, MA.



Carmen Dockery Perkins

Associate Head of School, Spanish

joined BCD in 2000

B.A., Spanish
Davidson College

M.A., Educational Administration
Columbia University

M.A., Spanish Literature
University of Colorado at Boulder

Barnes Fellow, Klingenstein Private School Leadership Masters program
Teachers College, Columbia Univ.

Carmen is the Associate Head of School for the Middle and Upper School divisions and teaches Spanish. Prior to joining BCD, Carmen taught in Colorado and danced in an African dance company before moving to New York, where she was both a Spanish teacher and an administrator at Marymount School. She is fluent in Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Carmen enjoys cooking, dancing, and biking with her husband Geoff and their three children.



Ned Douglas

History Department Chair, Math

joined BCD in 1983

B.A., Government
Lake Forest College

A beloved veteran teacher, Ned practices the Socratic teaching method, eliciting knowledge from his Middle and Upper School students. He likes to see a student's smile when he or she gets the problem or sees the relationship of an idea. His students say he is "funny, demanding, and fair." "He challenges me to be a better student." "I have to work extremely hard in his history class and I love it!" "Mr. Douglas makes learning fun!"



Elizabeth Downes

French, Eighth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2011

B.A. History
State University of NY at Oswego

Certificat de Langue Française
Institut Catholique, Paris

M.A., French Literature
Indiana University

Elizabeth Downes has taught French language and culture for over twenty years to students of all ages. She began her teaching career at Indiana University. While a graduate student there, she taught college students for four years. After living and studying in Paris for two years, Elizabeth began teaching in independent schools. She has taught at The Marymount School in NYC, Castilleja School in Palo Alto, CA, and Hawthorne Valley School in Ghent, NY. She also participated in the Klingenstein Summer Institute at Columbia University Teachers' College. When she isn't teaching, she enjoys spending time with her family and her labradoodle, Nicholas. Other interests include: reading, yoga, pilates, and spending time in nature.



Eugénie Fawcett

Classics Department Chair

joined BCD in 1971

A.B., Classics (Latin)
Radcliffe College

**M.A.T., Latin and the Classical
Humanities**
University of Massachusetts

Eugénie Fawcett, who came to BCD in 1971, teaches Latin and coordinates the school schedule. Each year, Eugénie prepares students for the annual PVCA Classics Day and chaperones the fifth and eighth grade trips to the Metropolitan Museum in New York. She has delivered numerous papers and conducted workshops at teachers' conferences, including the American Classical League.



Jim Fawcett

English Department Chair

joined BCD in 1978

A.B., English
Harvard University

M.A.L.S., English
Wesleyan University

Jim has chaired the English Department at BCD for more than thirty years, and teaches English to students in seventh through ninth grade. He crafted, and helps to fine-tune each year, the excellent literature curriculum that is the backbone of the BCD's English program. Jim lives with his wife in Tyringham, MA.



Paul Frantz

Associate Head of School, Math

joined BCD in 1990

**B.A., Psychology and Religious
Studies**
University of Virginia

M.Ed., Moderate Special Needs
American International College

Paul is the Associate Head of School for the Preschool and Lower School divisions, and has been a part of the BCD family for two decades. After receiving his B.A. in 1983 from the University of Virginia in both Religious Studies and Psychology, Paul taught at two schools for children with dyslexia, the Kildonan School in Amenia, NY and The Landmark School, in Manchester, MA. He was also the Head of School at the Learning Center School in Charlottesville, VA before moving to the Berkshires. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Paul also teaches Upper School math.



Susan Frantz

First Grade

joined BCD in 1996

B.S., Education
Syracuse University

Susan teaches first grade at BCD. After receiving her degree in Early Childhood Education from Syracuse University, Susan taught preschool in the Boston area. She has been director of an early childhood program in Charlottesville, VA and was Camp Director at YMCA Camp Chimney Corners from 1990 to 1996. Susan came to BCD in 1996. She and Paul's daughter, Sara, graduated from BCD2S in 2007.



Tim Gore

Science Department Chair, Fifth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1987

B.S., Forestry
University of Vermont

M.A.L.S., Science
Wesleyan University

B.S., Elementary Education
University of Vermont

Tim has been with BCD for more than 20 years. He teaches Lower and Middle School science, coaches the JV soccer team in the fall, and in the spring he coaches the boys' JV lacrosse program. Tim enjoys all outdoor activities, including hiking, biking, swimming, and cross-country skiing. Before joining BCD, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service. He lives in Pittsfield with his son.

“I never really liked English at my other school. Then, when I went to BCD, my teacher helped me to uncover many talents and interests I never knew I had. She helped me to look at life in a different way. Now I think that life might be a giant storybook that someone might enjoy reading, just as much as some people enjoy reading Harry Potter.”



Laura Gratz

Shop, Art, Ninth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2007

B.A., Soviet Studies
Cornell University

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Learning
Lesley College

Laura teaches art to Lower School students and shop to students in Middle and Upper School. Laura is also a ninth grade homeroom teacher and advisor. Prior to joining BCD, Laura taught first grade in Needham, MA. She enjoys gardening, art history, Russian literature and doing crossword puzzles.



Joni Guerette Olsen

Preschool

joined BCD in 2009

B.S., Education and History
Skidmore College

M.Ed., Special Education
PreK – 9, Lesley College

Joni co-teaches with Ellie Atwater in the PreK classroom. Joni has taught B3s, and prior to that was a long-term substitute kindergarten teacher at the Becket School. She was also the kindergarten assistant teacher at BCD for the 1995–96 school year. A graduate of BCD (class of 1988), Joni received a B.S. in Education and History from Skidmore College and a M.Ed. from Lesley College. Her two sons are in the fifth and seventh grades at BCD. Joni, her husband, and her boys love exploring the country and are always looking for new adventures.



Gail Heady

Physical Education, Sixth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1978

A.D., Health and Physical Education
Berkshire Community College

B.S., Physical Education and Health
University of Massachusetts

Veteran gym teacher Gail Heady is known for her two-word, no frills philosophy that stays with students long after their BCD years are over: “Keep trying.” In sports ranging from basketball to soccer to volleyball and beyond, she champions the girls to stay right in step with the boys—and to never give up. Gail is also a sixth grade homeroom teacher and advisor. She has served as a coach for almost every sport offered, but her all-time personal favorite is golf. Gail lives with her family in Great Barrington, MA.



Amy Hilliard

Music

joined BCD in 2010

B.M., Applied Voice and Music Education
Eastman School of Music,
Rochester NY

M.M., Music Education
Eastman School of Music,
Rochester NY

Amy Hilliard joined the faculty last year, teaching general music to children from preschool through sixth grade, choral music to students in grades 1–9, and digital music in grades 7–9. Amy has a wealth of experience, including as a music teacher at the elementary and high school level, as founder of the Learning Through Music program, as a song leader with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, and as a private voice and piano teacher. She received a Bachelor of Music Degree in Applied Voice and Music Education and a Masters Degree in Music Education from the Eastman School of Music. Amy also oversees our private instrumental music program.



Jilly Lederman

History, Math, Library

joined BCD in 2010

B.A., Journalism
Syracuse University

Ph.D., Slavic Linguistics
University of Virginia

M.A., Slavic Languages and Literatures
University of Virginia

Jilly Lederman teaches fourth grade math, fifth grade history and is librarian for preschool through fourth grade. Jilly has been a substitute teacher at BCD in the past. Prior to teaching at BCD she taught the fourth and fifth grades at Sinai Academy of the Berkshires, where she was the recipient of two Grinspoon Awards for teaching excellence in 2009. She has taught at the university level, and she has worked as a teaching consultant at the University of Virginia and as a curriculum consultant and adjunct faculty member at Nazareth College of Rochester. She received a BA from Syracuse University, and an MA and PhD from the University of Virginia. She has two sons at BCD.



Paul Lindenmaier

Head of School

joined BCD in 2008

B.A., Elementary Education
Goddard College

M.Ed., Educational Leadership
Arcadia University

Prior to joining BCD in 2008, Paul was Head of Lower School at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, an independent coeducational day school, where he had been since 1999. He spent six years as Head of School of The School in Rose Valley in Rose Valley, PA, and before that in an elementary education teaching position at Germantown Friends School, an independent day school in Philadelphia, PA, and at a public school in Vermont. Paul, who lives in Stockbridge with his wife, Margaret, and their two children, is an avid music fan, plays guitar, and enjoys hiking, biking and the cultural offerings in the Berkshires.



Michael McCarthy

Spanish

joined BCD in 2010

B.A., Education/Spanish
Boston College

M.A., Latin American Studies
Universidad de las Americas

Peace Corps
Brandeis University

Michael McCarthy brought extensive experience to his role of becoming BCD's first Middle School Spanish teacher last year. His experience includes teaching at Eaglebrook Academy, Longmeadow High School (where he was the founder of their AP program), The Knox School, and Herberg Middle School. In addition, he has taught educators at the Bates College and St. Johnsbury Academy AP Institutes. He received a BA in Spanish Education from Boston College, an MA in Latin American Studies from Universidad de las Americas, and he has pursued additional graduate studies at Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey, Universidad de Salamanca, and EF Language School Barcelona, Spain.



Andrea Patel

Kindergarten

joined BCD in 1995

B.A., Music and Psychology
Oberlin College

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Learning
Lesley University

Andrea has been teaching at BCD for sixteen years, and served as an Early Childhood division co-coordinator for four. Before coming to BCD, she taught in public schools in Massachusetts, including several one-room schoolhouses. Andrea is the author and illustrator of *on that day*, a children's book featured on the PBS show "Reading Rainbow" on the anniversary of 9/11. She has had a lifelong interest in the arts, including working stints as a flutist, metalsmith, and pastry chef. Andrea lives in Sheffield, MA with her husband and her son, a BCD alumnus.



Geoff Perkins

Math Department Chair, Eighth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2000

B.A., Economics
Connecticut College

M.T., Elementary Education
University of Virginia

After graduating from Connecticut College in 1988, Geoff served a one-year math internship at the St. Thomas Choir school under renowned math educator, Gordon Clem. His first teaching position was at Loudoun Country Day School, where Geoff coached soccer, basketball, lacrosse and track, and taught Middle School Math. In addition to teaching math at BCD, Geoff also coaches soccer and lacrosse. In his spare time, he enjoys playing with his three kids, playing tennis and riding his bike.



Sarah Pitcher-Hoffman

Humanities, Fourth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2002

B.A., American Studies
Vassar College

M.A., Elementary Education
Bank Street College of Education

Sarah teaches fourth grade humanities and homeroom, fifth grade English, and seventh grade history. She also coaches Farm Team soccer. Sarah's previous professional experience includes teaching Pre-K at Phoenix Head Start, third grade at The Dalton School, and fourth grade at Trevor Day School and in the Katonah-Lewisboro School District. In her spare time she enjoys skiing, cooking, and gardening. Sarah lives in Richmond, MA with her husband and two children.



Gill Romano

Third Grade

joined BCD in 1996

B.S., Elementary Education
Elmira College

M.S., Special Education
College of St. Rose

Gill teaches third grade and was director of the former Summer at BCD camp. Before joining BCD, Gill participated in undergraduate and graduate internships in several schools in New York state. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi (Education Honors Society) and Omicron Delta Kappa (Leadership Honors Society). Gill enjoys problem solving and helping to identify students' learning styles and developing strategies to help students with learning differences. She loves golfing, painting, and sewing. A lifelong Lenox resident, Gill and her husband, Alan, live in Lenox Dale, MA.



Jenney Smith

Science

joined BCD in 2008

B.A., Sociology
Colby College

M.Ed., Early Childhood Education & Creative Arts in Learning
Lesley University

Jenney wears multiple hats at BCD, including teaching Science in Grades K-3. Previously, she worked for three years as a Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten lead teacher at the Concord Children's Center in Concord, MA, and before that, taught second grade for two years at the Westwood Public School in Westwood, MA. In addition, Jenney has worked as a consultant for the Open Circle Program and as a curriculum developer for the Concord public school system.



Beth Spear

First Grade Assistant

joined BCD in 2010

B.S., Elementary Education
SUNY New Paltz

M.S., Literacy Education
Mount Saint Mary College

Beth joined the BCD community in the 2010-2011 school-year, during which time she filled a variety of roles in the Lower School. This year she has joined the faculty full time as the first grade assistant teacher. Beth recently received her Masters in Literacy Education from Mount Saint Mary College. Prior to BCD, Beth taught kindergarten and substituted regularly at several public schools in the area. Beth, who lives in Sheffield with her husband Dan, is an enthusiastic seamstress, a skilled dog trainer, and a nature lover.



Jon Sutera

Music

joined BCD in 2001

Jon grew up in a musical family and began studying the violin and piano at the age of nine. He gravitated towards playing the string bass when he was eleven and the classical guitar at thirteen. He studied with renowned teacher Ed Flower of Ithaca College for five years and Richard Provost of the Hartt School of Music for a year at which point he joined a German rock group and toured the U.S. and Germany for two years. Jon has continued to study informally with Ben Verdery of the Yale School of Music, working on baroque and Balkan musical styles and his own compositions. He has appeared on numerous albums as a sideman, played for various productions of Broadway and off Broadway musicals, and toured with several different groups. Jon currently lives in Great Barrington, MA and continues to expand his musical horizons.



Maureen Tumenas

Technology Department Chair

joined BCD in 1991

**B.S., Plant and Soil Science;
English**
University of Massachusetts

M.S., Plant and Soil Science
University of Massachusetts

Maureen has been teaching at BCD since 1991. Prior to joining the faculty at BCD, she worked as a researcher for the UMass Horticultural Research Center, then owned and operated her own preschool. She taught Kindergarten at BCD for 13 years, serving as the Early Childhood Division Coordinator for seven years. Currently, Maureen is the Technology Department Head, teaching computer in Grades 4–8. When not at school, Maureen enjoys reading, gardening, and keeping track of the whereabouts of her two grown children, both BCD alums.



Jeff Uhas

**Humanities, Seventh Grade History, Fifth Grade English,
Fourth Grade Advisor**

joined BCD in 2007

B.A., History
Boston College

M.A., Teaching
Manhattanville College, Graduate
School of Education

Jeff joined BCD in 2007. He has served as the school's Middle School librarian, and now teaches fourth grade humanities, fifth grade English, seventh grade history, and coaches soccer and basketball. Jeff started his teaching career as an AmeriCorps volunteer in the Manchester, NH public schools and then moved to San Francisco to teach Kindergarten and first grade. Most recently, Jeff taught second and third grade at Brunswick School in Greenwich, CT. Jeff enjoys hiking, mountain biking, painting and photography. He lives in Williamstown, MA with his wife and sons.



Alexis Watts

History, Library and English, Seventh Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2011

**B.A., English Language and
Literature**
University of Michigan

Alexis Watts joins the BCD faculty as a teacher of fifth grade ancient history, fifth grade library, and sixth and seventh grade English. She also advises the seventh grade students, serves as assistant coach of girls' varsity soccer, and oversees the publication of *The Penguinette*. Prior to coming to BCD, Alexis taught Middle School English at Isidore Newman School, an independent coeducational day school in New Orleans, LA. Alexis lives in Sheffield and is excited about learning all there is to know about the Berkshires.



Maria Whalen

French, Modern Foreign Languages Department Chair, Sixth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1999

B.A., French
University of Texas, Austin

Before coming to BCD in 1999, Maria taught preschool at Elm Preschool in Pittsfield. She started at BCD as an Early Childhood teacher and moved to the French department in 2001. When she's not teaching, Maria enjoys dancing, sailing, traveling, and reading. Maria has been traveling to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, working as a translator and helping her son raise money and community support for Konbit Football Ayiti, Inc. Maria has three children, all BCD alumni, and lives in Pittsfield, MA.

Administration & Staff

Paul Lindenmaier
Head of School

Paul Frantz
Associate Head of School,
Preschool and Lower School

Carmen Dockery Perkins
Associate Head of School,
Middle and Upper School

Amy Elmore
Director of Development

Amy Freeman
Director of Admission
and Financial Aid

Gwen Connolly
Director of Operations

Robert Serrell
Director of Marketing and
Communications

Michelle Alexander
School Nurse

Larry Bingham
Head of Maintenance

Joanne DelCarpine
Admission and
Development Associate

Dan Lee
Maintenance Assistant

Melissa Kruse
Registrar/Office Manager

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Mark Smith
Cara Vermeulen
Eleanore Velez
Eric Wilska



Berkshire Country Day School exists
to inspire the individual promise of every student,
that each may become an exemplary citizen of the world.