

Teachers

Berkshire Country Day School

Where you belong.



2012-2013



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

Katherine is teaching Grade 2 again this year. She taught Grade 4 at BCD from 1997-2002 and was the lower school reading teacher while assisting in Grade 2 in 2008. 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.

B.A., History
Goddard College

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



Geoff Ashworth

History, Physics, Seventh Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 1990

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 geography, Grade 7 English, and Grade 8 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.

MRSC, Chemistry
Manchester Polytechnic
Manchester, England

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



Ellen Hayford Atwater

Pre-Kindergarten
joined BCD in 1994

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.

A.D., Selected Studies
Berkshire Community College

Certificate, Administration in Early Childhood
Cambridge College

B.S., Early Childhood Education
Fitchburg State College



Susan Benner

Science, Biology, Math, Athletic Director
joined BCD in 1992

Susan Benner teaches Upper School science and math 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 Grade 8 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.

B.S., Biology
Carleton College

Masters of Public Health
Infectious Diseases & Microbiology
University of Pittsburgh



Amy Brentano

Theater and Film Director, Ninth Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 2010

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 through 3.

B.F.A.
Tisch School of the Arts



Kathy Clausen

Reading and Graphic Arts, Seventh Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 1994

Kathy started teaching at BCD in September of 1994 in the Early Childhood division. This year she is teaching art in the lower school and upper school divisions, reading in lower school, and is one of the seventh grade homeroom advisors. Over the course of her time at BCD she has taught art in Preschool, Lower School, Upper School, and at the High School (BCD2S). Her skills as a reading teacher developed from the many years she taught second grade. 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.

B.A., Art
Hunter College of CUNY

M.Ed., Elementary Education
Antioch College



Sarah Cooke

Beginner 3s Preschool Teacher
joined BCD in 2012

Residing in Columbia County with her family, Sarah was most recently a preschool teacher at Children's Learning Center of Morningside Heights in New York City. With eight years of experience teaching young children, she has also worked in museum programs and creative and expressive arts workshops for over fifteen years. Sarah has been described as "the most engaging, personable, creative, and passionate educator I have ever had the pleasure of working with." Sarah received a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College and an M.S.Ed. from Bank Street College of Education. She is certified in Early Childhood Education in New York State.

B.A.
Sarah Lawrence College

M.S.Ed.
Bank Street College of Education



Marilyn Cromwell

Art Department Head, Fifth Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 1983

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.

B.F.A., Fine Arts
California College of Arts and Crafts

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Teaching
Lesley University



Carmen Dockery Perkins

Associate Head of School
joined BCD in 2000

Carmen is the Associate Head of School for all divisions and taught Spanish for 12 years at BCD. Prior to joining BCD, Carmen taught in Colorado and danced in an African dance company before moving to New York, where she was a Spanish teacher with administrative responsibilities 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.

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.



Ned Douglas

History Department Chair, Math
joined BCD in 1983

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!"

B.A., Government
Lake Forest College



Elizabeth Downes

French, Ninth 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's 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 BCD's English program. Jim lives with his wife in Tyringham.



Tim Gore

Science Department Chair, Eighth 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 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 Lenox with his son.



Gail Heady

Physical Education, Eighth 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 an eighth 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.

“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.”



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 teaches general music to students in Preschool through Grade 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.



Joe Katz

Woodshop
joined BCD in 2012

B.S., Industrial Arts Education
Millersville University

B.A., Art
Westfield State University

Joe Katz is joining the faculty as the new part-time Woodshop teacher. He has twenty years of experience teaching students in Grades 4 through 12. In addition to teaching woodworking, Joe has experience working with students in such areas as metalworking, ceramics, jewelry making, and architectural design. Joe has operated his own woodworking and cabinetry business for ten years, was a member of the Peace Corps in both Ethiopia and the Marshall Islands, and then taught at Waldorf schools in Vancouver and New Zealand. He received a B.S. in Industrial Arts Education from Millersville University and a B.A. in Art from Westfield State University.



Jilly Lederman

History, Math, Library, Fifth Grade Advisor
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 third 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 B.A. from Syracuse University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. 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 Pennsylvania, 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.



Jenney Maloy

Science

joined BCD in 2008

Jenney joined the BCD community in the 2008-2009 school year. She teaches Lower School Science for Kindergarten through Grade 3. When not teaching science, she assists in the Kindergarten classroom. Previously, Jenney worked as a PreKindergarten teacher at the Concord Children's Center and a second grade teacher in the Westwood Public School system in Westwood, MA. In her spare time she enjoys knitting, gardening and hiking. Jenney lives in Dalton with her husband.

B.A., Sociology
Colby College

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



Sarah Pitcher-Hoffman

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

joined BCD in 2002

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

B.A., American Studies
Vassar College

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



Michael McCarthy

Spanish

joined BCD in 2010

Michael McCarthy brought extensive experience to his role of becoming BCD's first Middle School Spanish teacher. 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 B.A. in Spanish Education from Boston College, an M.A. 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 in Barcelona, Spain.

B.A., Education/Spanish
Boston College

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

Peace Corps
Brandeis University



Gill Romano

Third Grade

joined BCD in 1996

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.

B.S., Elementary Education
Elmira College

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



Julie Milani

First Grade

joined BCD in 2012

Most recently, Julie was the Kindergarten/First Grade teacher in the South Egremont school. With over twenty-five years of teaching experience, Julie offers the abilities of a practiced educator, demonstrated innovator, and experienced teacher of teachers. Julie received a B.F.A. in Dance and an M.A. in Southeast Asian Anthropology from Ohio University. After a career in dance and movement education, she received an M.Ed. from Bank Street College and started her elementary teaching career in 1988. In subsequent years, Julie completed the Reading Recovery Certification Program at Lesley University and the Administration Program at the Hampshire Educational Collaborative.

B.F.A., Dance
Ohio University

M.A., Southeast Asian Anthropology
Ohio University

M.Ed.
Bank Street College



Amy Sanchez

Spanish

joined BCD in 2012

With seventeen years of teaching experience, Amy has taught for six years as a PreKindergarten through Grade 8 Spanish teacher and eleven as an elementary teacher and math tutor. Eight of her years of teaching elementary school occurred when she was living in Venezuela. Her additional experience includes teaching English classes to employees of international companies. It is clear that Amy will bring the skills of an experienced teacher and innovator, and we are excited about all that she will offer as we advance our languages program in the future.

B.S., Elementary Education
University of Connecticut

M.A., Education
University of Connecticut



Andrea Patel

Kindergarten

joined BCD in 1995

Andrea has been teaching at BCD for seventeen 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.

B.A., Music and Psychology
Oberlin College

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Learning
Lesley University



Beth Spear

Second Grade Assistant

joined BCD in 2010

Beth joined the BCD community in the 2010-2011 school-year, during which time she filled a variety of roles in the Lower School. Last year she 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.

B.S., Elementary Education
SUNY New Paltz

M.S., Literacy Education
Mount Saint Mary College



Geoff Perkins

Math Department Chair, Sixth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2000

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 spending time with his family and being active outdoors.

B.A., Economics
Connecticut College

M.T., Elementary Education
University of Virginia



Jon Suters

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 and continues to expand his musical horizons.



Maureen Tumenas

Technology Department Chair
joined BCD in 1991

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 thirteen years, serving as the Early Childhood Division Coordinator for seven years. Currently, Maureen is the Technology Department Chair, teaching computer in Grades 4 through 8. When not at school, Maureen enjoys reading, gardening, and keeping track of the whereabouts of her two grown children, both BCD alums.

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

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



Jeff Uhas

Humanities, Seventh Grade History, Fifth Grade English, Fourth Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 2007

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.

B.A., History
Boston College

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



Alexis Watts

English, Library and Sixth Grade Advisor
joined BCD in 2011

Alexis teaches sixth and seventh grade English, fourth and fifth grade Library, and advises the sixth grade. She oversees the publication of The Penguinette and coaches soccer. Prior to joining the faculty at BCD in 2011, Alexis taught sixth grade English at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans. She lives in Sheffield and is currently a student in Wesleyan University's Masters in Liberal Studies program.

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



Maria Whalen

French and World Languages Department Chair
joined BCD in 1999

Maria started at BCD as an Early Childhood teacher and moved to the World Languages department in 2001. She is currently completing her Masters in Curriculum and Bilingual Education at American College of Education. Maria enjoys dancing, sailing, traveling, and reading. When time allows, Maria volunteers in Haiti and travels to Québec City. She enjoys spending time with her three children, all BCD alumni, and lives in Richmond.

B.A., French
University of Texas, Austin

Administration & Staff

Paul Lindenmaier
Head of School

Carmen Dockery Perkins
Associate Head of School

Amy Elmore
Director of Development

Alicia Rossie
Director of Admission and Financial Aid

Gwen Connolly
Director of Operations

Michelle Alexander
School Nurse

John Evans
Counselor

Larry Bingham
Head of Maintenance

Joanne DeCarpine
Development Associate

Robert Serrell
Marketing Coordinator

Dan Lee
Maintenance Assistant

Melissa Kruse
Registrar/Office Manager

Sarah Williams
Associate Head of School Assistant

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Alexis Watts
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.