

Teachers

Berkshire Country Day School

Where you belong.



2014-2015



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

Grade 1 - 2

rejoined BCD in 2010

B.A., History
Goddard College

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

Katharine is teaching Grade 2 for a third 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.



Grace Barlow

French

joined BCD in 2014

A.B. and M.A., French
Bryn Mawr

Grace joins BCD's faculty this year as a full-time French teacher. Grace is experienced with teaching beginning French students with the Rassias method, and she has worked as a teaching assistant at Bryn Mawr College. She received her A.B. and M.A. degrees, with Cum Laude Honors, from Bryn Mawr. She has studied at the Institut d'Etudes Françaises d'Avignon and l'Université Paris VIII in France, The Governor's Academy in Byfield, MA, and Pudong Foreign Language School in Shanghai, China. Grace's other interests include live music, ice hockey, and learning new languages!



Susan Benner

Science, Biology, Athletic Director, Ninth Grade Advisor

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, is the ninth grade advisor and oversees and directs our athletic program. She is also the coordinator of the Grade 9 French trip and 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.



Carmen Dockery Perkins

Associate Head of School

joined BCD in 2000

B.A., Spanish
Davidson College

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

M.A., Educational Administration
Columbia University

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

As the Associate Head of School for all divisions, Carmen oversees the academic program for BCD's students. She taught Spanish and French at BCD before assuming the position of Associate Head. Prior to joining BCD, Carmen taught high school and college level Spanish at The Alexander Dawson School and CU-Boulder in Colorado, danced in an African dance company, and worked as a Spanish teacher and Diversity Coordinator with administrative responsibilities at Marymount School in New York City. 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!"



Ben Evans

Ceramics

joined BCD in 2014

Ben is teaching Ceramics to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 in the Winter and Spring, as well as teaching an Arts Block class in ceramics for Upper School students each trimester. Ben has been the Ceramics Studio Manager at IS183 Art School in Stockbridge, MA for the past seven years. There he has taught Wheel Working, Hand Building, Tile Making, and Slip Casting, and has been the Summer Camp Ceramic Instructor. His other teaching experience includes working as an after school art teacher at Morningside Elementary School and Taconic High School in Pittsfield, as an art club teacher at Richmond Consolidated School, and as a teaching assistant for Jeff Zamek at the Penland School of Crafts in NC. Ben lives and has a studio in Richmond, MA. When Ben is not making pots he enjoys spending time outside on his bike or skis.

B.F.A., Ceramics
State University of NY at New Paltz



Eugénie Fawcett

Classics Department Chair, Sixth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1971

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. She has delivered numerous papers and conducted workshops at teachers' conferences, including the American Classical League.

A.B., Classics (Latin)
Radcliffe College

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



Jim Fawcett

English Department Chair

joined BCD in 1978

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.

A.B., English
Harvard University

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



Tim Gore

Science Department Chair, Eighth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1987

Tim has been with BCD for more than twenty-one years. He teaches middle and upper 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.

B.S., Forestry
University of Vermont

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

B.S., Elementary Education
University of Vermont



Gail Heady

Physical Education, Eighth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 1978

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. She is an advocate of lifetime sports, taking the students kayaking, cross-country skiing, and hiking on the campus. Gail is also an eighth grade homeroom teacher and advisor. She has served as a coach for almost every sport offered. Now a grandparent, Gail lives with her husband, Merritt, in Great Barrington, MA.

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

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



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.



Joel Kalodner

English and French

joined BCD in 2012

B.A., English
Haverford College

J.D.
The University of Michigan Law School

Joel Kalodner is returning to BCD this year as a full time Middle and Upper School English and French teacher. Joel ('86), who received his Juris Doctor at The University of Michigan Law School in 1998, practiced law for many years before setting his sights on a teaching career in 2009. He was a long-term substitute Sixth and Eighth Grade English teacher at BCD four years ago, and he has also taught as a substitute teacher at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, teaching in grades Six through Twelve in subjects including French, Latin, and History. Fluent in French, he was a substitute French teacher at BCD last year, and he has also taught French language-immersion classes at Monument Valley Regional Middle School. Joel received a B.A. with Honors in English from Haverford College. Joel is also an experienced writer, actor, and French-English translator.



Amanda Kane

Preschool

joined BCD in 2014

B.A., Early Childhood Education
Hood College

M.Ed., Early Childhood Education
Champlain College

Amanda Kane joins the BCD faculty as the leader of the Preschool program. Prior to moving north and coming to BCD, Amanda taught Preschool and in the lower elementary grades at Country Day School and Discovery Woods Learning Community in McLean, VA, and at Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria, VA. Amanda received a B.A. in Early Childhood Education from Hood College and a M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Champlain College. She has attended the Reggio Emilia International In-Depth Study Conference in Italy, and she is practiced in the Reggio Emilia approach. Amanda has co-authored *Little Dog on the Prairie*, a travel journal through the Laura Ingalls Wilder homesteads and an article on the Waldkindergarten in Germany for Green Teacher Magazine. Outside of school, Amanda enjoys nature hikes, reading and listening to almost all kinds of music.



Joe Katz

Woodshop

joined BCD in 2012

B.S., Industrial Arts Education
Millersville University

B.A., Art
Westfield State University

Joe Katz has over 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.



Sara Katzoff

Theater

joined BCD in 2014

B.A., Performance Studies
Bard College at Simon's Rock

Sara Katzoff recently directed BCD's Fifth and Sixth Grade Winter theater programs and joins the faculty this year to become the new Theater Director and leader of the Theater Program in Grades 1 through 9. Sara is currently the co-artistic director of Bazaar Productions and The Berkshire Fringe. A theater maker, writer and performer, Sara has spent the last decade devising, developing and curating new work for the stage. Her original plays include *The Scissor Tango Variations*, *The Stalk*, *R. Stiltskin* and *PASSAGE*, slated to premier in 2015. Sara has worked with students of all ages, elementary through college. She is a founding company member of Kickwheel Ensemble Theater. A graduate of the Dell'Arte International, she also holds a B.A. in performance studies from Bard College at Simon's Rock.

“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.”



Jilly Lederman

History, Math, Library, English, Fifth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2010

Jilly Lederman teaches fourth and fifth grade math, fifth grade history, English and writing, and is the librarian for Preschool through second grade. Prior to teaching at BCD she was the recipient of two Grinspoon Awards for teaching excellence in 2009 and taught fourth and fifth grades at Sinai Academy of the Berkshires. Jilly worked as a teaching consultant at the University of Virginia and was on the faculty at Nazareth College of Rochester and Rochester Institute of Technology. She received a B.A. from Syracuse University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. She also did graduate work at Kazan State University and Moscow State University, both in Russia, as well as at the University of London. Jilly recently received her Massachusetts certifications for Elementary Education and Moderate Disabilities. She has two sons at BCD.

B.A., Journalism
Syracuse University

**M.A., Slavic Languages and
Literatures**
Ph.D., Slavic Linguistics
University of Virginia



Paul Lindenmaier

Head of School

joined BCD in 2008

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.

B.A., Elementary Education
Goddard College

M.Ed., Educational Leadership
Arcadia University



Julie Milani

Grades 1 - 2

joined BCD in 2012

Prior to joining BCD, Julie was the Kindergarten/First Grade teacher in the South Egremont school. With over twenty-six 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



Andrea Patel

Kindergarten

joined BCD in 1995

Andrea began teaching at BCD in 1995, serving as Early Childhood division co-coordinator for four of those years. Prior to BCD, she taught in public schools in Massachusetts, including several Berkshire County 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 first anniversary of 9/11. She loves to read, bake, and kayak. Andrea and her husband live in Sheffield, MA. Their son is a BCD alumnus.

B.A., Music and Psychology
Oberlin College

M.Ed., Creative Arts in Learning
Lesley University



Geoff Perkins

Math Department Chair, Sixth 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. For the past twenty-four years, he has primarily taught middle school math and coached a variety of athletic teams. During that time, he pursued a masters in elementary education and led a self-contained classroom. He has been a member of the BCD faculty since 2000. In his spare time, Geoff enjoys spending time with his family and taking advantage of the many outdoor activities that the Berkshires have to offer.



Sarah Pitcher-Hoffman

History, Geography, Seventh Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2002

B.A., American Studies
Vassar College

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

Sarah is a seventh grade homeroom advisor and teaches sixth grade geography and seventh and eighth 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.



Chris Renkert

Humanities, Fourth Grade Advisor

joined BCD in 2014

B.A., U.S. History & American Studies
George Mason University

M.Ed., Elementary Education
Marymount University

Chris Renkert is joining the faculty this year as an advisor and teacher of humanities and integrated studies teacher in the fourth grade. With sixteen years of teaching experience in both independent and public schools, Chris taught in a self-contained fourth grade classroom at Indian Mountain School for six years where he also served as a dormitory parent, led an annual sleepover trip to the Boston Science Museum, and supervised off-campus trips for boarding students in grades Six through Nine. He worked at the St. Andrew the Apostle School in Virginia for five years where he taught fifth grade, literature, science, and social studies, and served as chair of the Social Studies Department and the school's five-year curriculum development plan.



Gill Romano

Third Grade

joined BCD in 1996

B.S., Elementary Education
Elmira College

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

Gill started teaching third grade at BCD in September of 1996. She received a B.S. from Elmira College in Elementary Education and a Master of Science in Education degree, majoring in Special Education, from the College of Saint Rose. She enjoys identifying students' learning styles and developing strategies to help students reach their full academic potential. Her leisure activities include golfing, painting, and knitting. Gill lives with her husband, Alan, in Lenox Dale, MA.



Sasha Sicurella

Arts

rejoined BCD in 2014

B.F.A.
University of British Columbia

M.F.A.
New York University

Sasha Sicurella rejoins BCD this year as the Coordinator of BCD's Visual Arts Program and as a K-6 arts instructor. Sasha is an arts education specialist, artist, and consultant. She is currently the Director of Education at Omi International Arts Center in Ghent, NY where she has spent ten years developing and implementing public, arts-based programming for people of all ages. Sasha is also the founding director of the I AM: International Foundation, a non-profit organization that works globally to provide opportunities for children to explore identity through art and self-portrait photography. To date, the I AM: Projects have served more than 1,000 children in 15 countries across five continents. Her work has been exhibited in the United States and internationally at museums and art centers in Tel Aviv, Milan, Mumbai, Addis Ababa, Bratislava, Ulan Bator, Sao Paulo, and New York.



Vicky Sideropoulos

Preschool

joined BCD in 2014

B.A.
SUNY Buffalo

M.S.Ed., Early Childhood Education
Bank Street College

Victoria Sideropoulos joins the faculty at BCD this year as an associate preschool teacher. Victoria moved to the Berkshires last year from New York City where she had taught in both assistant and associate teaching roles at The Spence School, Bank Street School for Children, and Village Community School. She has also taught at Stevens Cooperative School in Hoboken, NJ. Victoria received a B.A. from SUNY at Buffalo and a M.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College.



Max Spitzer

Art

joined BCD in 2014

B.F.A., Sculpture
Rhode Island School of Design

Max Spitzer is teaching art to students in Kindergarten through Grade 6 during the Winter and Spring terms. He is also teaching a sculpture class during Arts Block for Upper School students each trimester. Max is experienced in a variety of media and processes, from mold making to oil painting, ceramics to woodworking. Max has taught art to students as the Head Studio Instructor at Omi International Arts Center and at a summer camp in Vermont. He has also worked at Salem Art Works, Vermont Studio Center, for Tom Sachs and Gregory Barsamian, and a Junior Luthier at S.E. Spitzer Guitar Company. Max received a BFA with Honors in sculpture from Rhode Island School of Design, and also attended Brown University. Max lives and maintains a studio in Hudson, NY where he also works as a luthier.



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.



Ana Cristina Velez

Spanish

joined BCD in 2013

B.A., Education
Pontificia Universidad Catolica,
Madre y Maestra, Santiago,
Dominican Republic

Cristina is in her second year of teaching Spanish to students in grades 4 through 9 at BCD. She has been using the method called TPRstory Telling (Teaching Proficiency Response through StoryTelling) with a lot of success. When not teaching, Cristina enjoys dancing, spending time with friends and family, and enjoying what life brings her every day.



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

Jennifer Drees
School Nurse

John Evans
Counselor

Dan Lee
Head of Maintenance

Joanne DelCarpine
Development Associate

Robert Serrell
Marketing Coordinator

Chris Perilli
Maintenance Assistant

Melissa Kruse
Registrar/Office Manager

Christina McIntyre
Administrative Assistant

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Alli Sheehan
Mark Smith
Cara Vermeulen
Koethi Zan



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