



Introducing Our... Facilitators!



We thought you would like to know a little about the people who are offering the great sessions that we have! We appreciate their hard work and hope you and your children enjoy learning in our unique setting.

Michael Backus

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Michael is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Cherie Benbow

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I am a certified teacher with experience teaching Lego robotics, and I have taken teams to the state FLL competition.

Ron Bergey

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I am a life long Alaskan, grew up in Gakona and graduated from Glennallen High School. I earned a B.S in Biology and a degree in secondary education and have now taught for 21 years. I love science and everything about it. In the summer I commercial fish for salmon, halibut and blackcod. I have been married for 16 years and have 3 children. In my spare time I love to hunt, trap and coach wrestling. I appreciate the diversity and the kids and Twindly as well as their interest in learning.

Sara Blydenburgh

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My name is Sara Blydenburgh, I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years, I have two children of my own and love to learn and play with them. For many years I was a technician supervisor for a medical pharmacy and recently left to spend more time with my children. I take great joy and pride in teaching my kids and working with them to learn new life skills. My family loves to explore the world around us and we enjoy inventing new and silly games out of everyday house hold chores. I'm excited to be helping TBCS and looking forward to a fun year.

Natasha Bowers

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Natasha is a home school mom and has been a licensed and insured figure skating coach for 8 years. She is also a gold level certified judge for figure skating. She has over 15 years of dance, ballet, skating, and artistic movement experience along with choreography and theater training.

Tennille Bradstreet

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This is my tenth year homeschooling. I have two elementary and two high school students, all at TBCS. In the past, I've been a receptionist, bookkeeper, office manager, clerk, waitress, brown thumb greenhouse worker, delivery driver, and college student. I enjoy reading, camping, fishing, working out, quilting, woodworking, home repair, and attempts at gardening. I led sessions on math games and typing at TBCS last year, and assisted or subbed other classes as needed. I look forward to helping your children learn the writing process with the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) program, combined with Draw-Write-Now. They will compile a portfolio to bring home.

Dar Brown

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My name is Darlene Brown. I have lived in Wasilla most of my life and am a graphic designer by trade. I started Crazy Buffalo Design in 2005 as a graphic design business, but over the past few years my friends that home school their kids have repeatedly asked that I teach art classes. So I am currently moving my business in that direction. I love exploring art with kids so it will be a fun new chapter for my business.

In college I took many art classes not only as part of the curriculum but for fun. I LOVE art in all its forms. I have an associates of applied arts from the Art Institute of Seattle. I also worked at the Alaska Job Corps with teens and young adults (16-24) for 8 years. I love children and their creative little minds. Please let me work with your kids to see what great art and crafts we can make together.

Dustin Campisi

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Dustin is currently a TBCS parent.



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Temple Christiansen

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I am simply a home school mom who would like to share with other students as well as my own the wonders of learning in hope of passing that love on to them. I have conducted exploratory science classes, high school chemistry lab, government and economics classes, and am adding principles of logic (exploring logical fallacies) this year.

Mardene Collins

Mardene Collins is a retired MSBSD teacher and district office coordinator. She taught both elementary and middle school; teaching all subjects at the elementary level and math and literature/language arts at the middle school level. At the district office she coordinated professional development and assessment and most recently was the Talented and Gifted Coordinator.

Mardene has a BS from Brigham Young University in Therapeutic Recreation; teacher and administrative certifications from the University of Alaska; gifted education and distance learning endorsements from Utah State University; and mathematics endorsement and a MS from Portland State University in Curriculum and Instruction.

She has taught quilting classes for many years along with 4-H cooking and sewing. A recent achievement has been to become certified as a group exercise instructor. Her hobbies include quilting, sewing, music, reading, enjoying great summers in Alaska and her family.

Shannon Connelly

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Shannon taught Elementary School with the Anchorage School District for nine years, before staying home to have her children. While working she organized a school-wide Geography Bee and Art competition. This is her third year homeschooing her children with Twindly, and her first time teaching a session.

Karen Farnsworth

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I have lived in Alaska for almost 20 years and raised my 7 children here. Keeping kiddos happy creating things has been my forte. My mother taught me cake decorating with her professional cake business. I have had craft booths in the past as well as kept cub scouts busy with weekly projects.

Bob Frost

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I am a retired teacher. I taught for 33 years. Most of my years were in the elementary classroom as a regular teacher. Starting in 1991 I began working as a computer teacher; back before the internet, before everyone carried a phone in their pocket! One of the areas I became involved with while teaching was working with LEGO robotics and incorporating that into the curriculum.

I love working with kids, so I started looking for an avenue for that and found Twindly Bridge. I've taught classes with the LEGO Simple Machines materials. I also taught a class using the Mac computers. I enjoy working with computers (strictly a Mac user).

Emily Hardy

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Emily graduated from Colony High School. She worked as a massage therapist and nutritional therapist until she started a family. She started homeschooling three years ago and has three kids, two dogs and a cat. And loves teaching.

Jennifer Hawk

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Jennifer has volunteered and substituted in schools in variety of ways. She enjoys working with children and watching their eyes light up at new experiences.



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Sarah Jasper

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I am a stay-at-home mother of four who also has a degree in practical nursing. My husband and I have homeschooled our children for several years, and we enjoy the opportunities it gives us to educate our children in the way that works best for the individual child. I teach because I believe we all have different gifts that we can share. I enjoy reading, sewing, being creative, and all things old and historical.

Melanie Keenan

Private music teacher in Wasilla since 1997. Instructed various ensembles & folk bands that perform throughout the state since 1997. Established & directed the Mat-su Folk Arts Camp in 2006 and 2007. Taught violin and orchestra at Birchtree Charter School from 2010-2013. Assisted with instruction for the Mat-Su Youth Orchestra since 2011 to present.

Tim Kelly

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Mr. Kelly ("Coach" Kelly) has been working with youth shooters for nearly 20 years. He is a NRA Certified Pistol Instructor and NRA Range Safety Instructor. He has coached two Jr. National Pistol Champion shooters with multiple pistol championships won. He also coached several adults to regional championship status. He is a Match director for USA Shooting Alaska Jr. Olympic Qualifier match.

Sierra Lehman

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Sierra has enjoyed working with clay and children for many years. She has a master's degree in ceramics, and has enjoyed teaching art classes in a variety of settings.

Amanda Leonard

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Amanda Leonard has been homeschooling her three daughters for the last 8 years. She loves teaching and enjoys when the kids have a "light bulb" moment. Her education includes aeronautics, safety, business, and criminal justice. She is a certified BIA instructor in archery and has been involved with Girl Scouts for 17 years. In Amanda's spare time she loves to sew and has been a member of the Valley Quilters Guild for the last 12 years. She has been in the military for the last 16 years. It seems as though Amanda leaves no rock unturned and tries everything at least once!

Karl Lund

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I am a retired teacher, I worked with home school student/parents for over 20 years, B.S. in biology, M.A.T. in zoology. Developed many techniques and approaches to help home school students and parents improve the home school experience.

Elizabeth Melson

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Elizabeth Melson (B.S. Music Ed k-12 instrumental and vocal) has been an educator in public and private schools intermittently since 1977. She has home schooled her own children while living in Latvia and Russia right after the fall of the Iron Curtain. She currently teaches music at Axios Academy, Babcock Fine Arts center as well as TBCS.

Bettina Mileur

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Bettina is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Rachel Phillips

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We have 5 children and have been homeschooling for 13 years. Graduated two and schooling three. I have lived in Alaska for 40 years. I absolutely adore the K-2 age group and look forward to this experience!



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Adria Rollman

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I enjoy the Spanish language and had the opportunity to take two years of Spanish class in high school. It is important that my children learn to speak another language, and I thought it would be more effective in a group setting. Teaching a session at Twindly Bridge will provide that opportunity. I ordered a very nice, interactive, musical Spanish curriculum. I look forward to teaching Spanish to our kids in a fun-filled, exciting way that is easily retained and provides a foundation to build upon.

Valerie Segerstrom

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Valerie is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Cyndy Shoemaker

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I started drawing when I was 6 years old when my gramma told me to draw exactly what I see and put a pear on the table out on her patio near the trellis covered with roses. I have had no formal extended training only the great benefit of teachers who invested in my interest throughout grade school.

Michael Taylor

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I have been practicing karate since 1971 and a teacher since 1980. I have taught extensively in the public school system of Alaska, both in south east Alaska and in the Mat-Su Valley. This includes all levels from pre-school thru the University of Alaska.

I currently have advanced black belts in both Shotokan Japanese Karate and Shito-ryu Japanese Karate, along with a black belt in Jujitsu.. Nationally and internationally certified as an instructor. I have also taught Karate in Europe and in Africa.

Lisa Tcheripanoff

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Lisa has been a volunteer facilitator at Twindly Bridge for several years. She spends many hours volunteering by teaching a variety of sessions to our students. Her classes are always well attended and brings much enthusiasm & knowledge to her sessions.

Shelly TueL

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I am a home school mom of 4. Our oldest graduated from Twindly last year. We love to play games with our kids! I usually incorporate at least one board game a day into our school schedule.

Judy Vanderwilt

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Judy Vanderwilt is the owner of BearPaw Archery of Wasilla, AK. She is NASP certified and hosts state shoots for the competitive archer. She is an enthusiast for the sport and enjoys sharing her passion with students.

Clarissa Viens

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Hello! As a home school graduate, I am thrilled to be back among engaged and excellent students. This is my first year teaching with a certificate fresh from the University of Alaska and I am ready to put some innovative ideas to use. Learning is my passion and the sky is the limit when it comes to knowledge and skills.



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Kari Warner

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Hello, my name is Kari Warner and I'm happy to have the opportunity to be part of your child's education! I love to learn and to pass that love on to children through teaching. It's great to have countless chances to answer children's why's? Questions and see those light bulbs go off above their heads when they discover something new. In 2013 I completed my Alaska Elementary Teaching Certificate for teaching K-8. My Master of Arts in teaching through UAS is almost complete. I have been a substitute teacher with the Mat-Su district since 2008, teaching every grade from Pre-K thru 8th. Wasilla has been my home since 1985, except for 3 years in Germany where I had a wonderful time experiencing European culture. Hiking, cross country skiing and spending time outdoors are my favorite things to do with my free time, followed by relaxing with a great book.

John Weetman

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My name is John Weetman and I would like to welcome you to an exciting 2014-2015 school year at Twindly Bridge Charter School. Although this will be my first year at Twindly, it will be my 29th year in the field of education.

I first came to Alaska in 1985 teaching at Fort Yukon where I taught: kindergarten; 5th/6th grade math/science; high school English, fine arts and business.

In the early 1990's I taught middle school in Juneau, then moved to Mountain Village for eight years teaching kindergarten and 7th grade. Then moved to the Valley in 2001 where I started my family and worked in administration for the MSBSD.

I feel my 11 years of varied teaching experience on the Yukon River and 18 years of administration lend well to Twindly Bridge Charter School. I look forward to meeting all of you, please feel free to stop in and say hello or give me a call or email if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Jenna Worley

lesandjen@live.com

I am Jenna Worley, I moved to Alaska 3 years ago from Colorado. I was a CO native and attended kindergarten through college there. This is our third year of homeschooling our daughter and son. In my free time - when I am not busy with home school and homeschooling activities - I write for an Oilfield website, and my hobbies include arts/crafts, music, shopping, and enjoying the great outdoors. Previously I have volunteered to teach and help in my children's classes at school and at church, and I helped with the weekly reading program at the library in our old home town. I am looking forward to teaching a session at Twindly Bridge because I like helping students learn while having fun. I want there to be many options and a wide variety of classes for the kids to chose from so they can explore their interests.
