



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.

Amanda Barnette

angel4nature@yahoo.com

I am Amanda Barnette. I have been a homeschool mom for 10 years now, and currently teach my own 9th grader, 3rd grader, and pre-schooler. In the past have been a nanny, "babysitter", child care center lead assistant teacher, and owner/teacher of my in home daycare which was open for 10 years. My life has been devoted to the care, wellness, and education of all children.

The classes I am offering (Sign Language Phonics, Phonics crafts, and Circle Time Stories) are the classes I designed specifically for my in home daycare. Every child who started in my home daycare at least 1 year before starting Kindergarten was able to read before getting to the public school.

Amy Marino

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I'm an abstract artist who loves to think outside the box. Art was such an instrumental part of my life growing up... So much so that I knew at a very young age I wanted to pursue a degree in Graphic Design. I have a BFA in Graphic Design (Bachelors of Fine Arts degree) but have taken many classes in photography, sculpture, print making, monotype, color theory, art history, pottery, and marketing! I have an extensive background working with children through many different avenues (inner city as Children's Director, children & youth ministry, chaplain, youth sports, SWI swim instructor, substitute teacher). I'm a busy "Go-schooling" mom to three young girls under 6! My goals are to; create an environment where kids love to learn, spark creative thinking, build confidence as an artist and have a blast creating art! I'm looking forward to exploring the subject of ART with your child!

Bettina Mileur

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Bettina is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Charlotte Rhine

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I was born and raised in Kiel, Germany. All through my life I traveled, and even lived abroad for several years. I met my husband while vacationing in Alaska, and soon fell in love with both the man and the state. After years of long distance dating and plane hopping between AK and Germany, I finally moved here in 2006 and have been living in Big Lake ever since. We have a 9-year-old son, and just switched from IDEA to Twindly Bridge this year.

My first experience as a German language tutor was at age 16, during my year as an exchange student in North Carolina, and I have since tutored children and adults off and on throughout my life. I have also taught German language classes while living in Africa for a few years. Before moving to the USA, I obtained a Master's Degree in General and Comparable Linguistics and English studies from Kiel University. I'm especially looking forward to sharing our German language and culture with the kids at Twindly Bridge this year.

Cindy Freeland

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Hello, my name is Cynthia Freeland; everyone can call me Miss Cindy. My Family moved to Alaska in 2014. We had been commuting from Arizona every summer for nine years, until making it our permanent home. We love it here! I have an Associate's degree in Business and in Psychology. I also have had many classes in Child Development and Curriculum. In the past several years, my experience has been in Special Education. I enjoy teaching very much and look forward to working with your children here at Twindly Bridge.



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Cyndy Wahlgren

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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 and a lifetime of experience of observing and capturing what I 'see.'

Dabric Huntington

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My name is Dabric and I have owned reptiles for over 21 years. I grew up in the valley and after getting my first Burmese Python I was hooked on reptiles. Since then I have had the pleasure of having iguanas, geckos, monitors, tarantulas, scorpions, cockroaches, hermit crabs, turtles, tortoises, and many different types of snakes. In my free time I enjoy reading, painting, bike riding, and rock climbing.

Deborah Murray

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I have been with the Mat- Su school District for 10 years and have had the opportunity to work in a variety of classrooms and schools. I currently work up front at TBCS and enjoy meeting all the families and students who walk through our doors daily. The favorite part of my job is watching students learn, grow and excel in an educational setting. Session time will involve lots of questions, answers, movement and hands on experiments!

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 home schooling six years ago, joining Twindly three years ago, and has three kids.

Eric Rains

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Eric is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Heather Littau

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I am simply a stay at home mother who is very happy with her job. Baking and children are at the top of my favorite things list. I am not a professional, but I have been baking on my own since I was eight years old. This is my first year of homeschooling and my second session in the kitchen at Twindly Bridge. I am looking forward to getting to know some of the students and working together to create some new recipes.
~Heather Littau, mother of three, long time Alaskan

Jeremy Cubas

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My name is Jeremy Cubas, I have studied film making and photography at the New York Film Academy. I have photographed in the professional field such as sports, fashion and portraits for 9 years.

Jessi Tomasino

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My name is Jessi Tomasino. My day job used to be working as a licensed optician. I did that for 13 years, 3 years ago I decided to put that on hold so that I could do a good job home schooling my children. I have been a home school mom going on four years now and I love it.
In my spare time I raise chickens, turkeys, ducks, and decorate cakes for people. I have always loved to paint. In high school I was in art honor Society and in college I took way too many art classes than was necessary for my degree. As a lifelong student of art I just completed my third pottery class learning the wheel and have found a new love.
I have always connected with children. I started babysitting when I was very young and still love to be around children today. I am so excited to be able to teach something I am passionate about at Twindly Bridge and share some of my art experience with your children.



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John Weetman

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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.

Judy Vanderwilt

bearpawarchery@gmail.com

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.

Karen Olson

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Karen 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 she brings much enthusiasm & knowledge to her sessions.

Kari Meyer

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Certified Teacher/Tutor | Reading Write Alaska

Kim Mattison

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I am a homeschool mom to three children and we have been homeschooling for 4 years. I was born and raised in Alaska and moved to the Valley a year and a half ago. I enjoy teaching crafts to children and adults. I think hand crafts such as crochet and sewing teach wonderful self reliant skills that connect us to our pasts.

Kimberly Bergey

kb1fitmother@gci.net

Living in Palmer most her life, Kim Bergey has been involved with fitness since the age of 12. It was then that she developed a passion for weight training and living a strong healthy life. She has continued with this passion still today and has encouraged, trained, and motivated hundreds of kids and adults over the past 25 years. She is a Certified fitness Trainer & Certified Performance Nutritionist. At her own fitness studio she personal trains adults and students. She has worked at several valley schools teaching Middle School P.E., high school cross training, and worked as an assistant wrestling coach. Mrs. Bergey has an amazing track record with valley students mainly due to her 5 year stint of successful preseason for wrestlers. Her own program of conditioning wrestlers in strength, endurance, agility and flexibility had lead to successful and injury free kids.

Mrs. Bergey has a special heart for kids eating right and being strong individuals. She

Kimberly Howell

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I have been in the field of education for over 15 years both as a teacher and a counselor. I have previously taught middle school students in almost all core areas but my specialty is math and science. Upon receiving my masters degree in counseling I was a high school counselor for about 9 years and then recently went back to middle school for counseling. I love helping students find their path and help students reach their goals. Prepping students for post-secondary endeavors is important to help them achieve their aspirations.



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Laura Lightfoot Rogers

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Laura Lightfoot, MQP, RYT, LSP

Laura is happy to share the joyful movement, self-awareness, strength, balance and ease of mind gained by simple, gentle healing movement and intent. Through motions, poses, breath, and visualizations, daily healing and prevention of dis-ease have been practiced by people all over the world for thousands of years. She has studied Ayurvedic Yoga; Kundalini; Five Element Chinese Medicine and massage; qi gong; tai chi; Tui Na; Reiki; Thai yoga massage; acroyoga; acupressure; infant massage & doula support; children's movement arts; gymnastics; and has experience with young people who have sensory perception and integration differences. Her main goal as a teacher is to share and model a sense of self-awareness toward unconditional loving kindness to oneself, which ripples out to touch all else. When a person is aware of one's state of mind and emotions, one has the presence of mind to cultivate harmony, balance, strength and ease within and with others. Laura is a homeschool parent at Twindly Bridge.

Laurine Domke

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My name is Laurine Domke and I am so excited and happy to be part of the Twindly Bridge family! This is my 27th year as an educator in Alaska. My teaching background is in secondary math and science and over the years I have taught most subjects in those two areas. I have also served as an administrator in district office and as the site principal for two small rural schools. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physics, a Master of Science in Business Administration and as well as extensive coursework in education and educational leadership.

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.

Madlen Penn

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Madlen Penn was born and raised in the capital city of Bulgaria – Sofia. After graduating high school, she moved to Trier, Germany to pursue a degree in English. There, Madlen worked at a private tutoring agency as a teacher for English, German, and Math for grades K-12. Her husband's employment by the US AF brought their growing family to AK seven years ago.

Madlen considers independent problem solving to be the most important skill one needs to acquire. Thus, regardless of the subject she is teaching, her foremost goals are to help the child establish a can-do attitude and build a set of productive habits.

This fall, Madlen will be graduating from UAA with a BS in Psychology and starting her Speech-Language Pathology Master's. Her biggest passion is Neuroscience and, since she loves to talk about brains, nerves, and their near-magical electro-chemical workings, she is eager to share her knowledge about the nervous system with the young, curious minds of our local future scientists.

Maxine Stiltner

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I'm a retired grandma raising my grandson, the last two years I've taught drama club at public school. I love watching little imaginations opening and growing.

Melissa Palaniuk

melissably@hotmail.com

Melissa is a home schooling parent of Twindly Bridge.



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Michael Taylor

shibuko@hotmail.com

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.

Michele "Shelly" Menzia

michele.menzia@matsuk12.us

I'm a reading specialist with 30 years experience, BA in Special Education , masters in Education. 100 plus hours training with Linda Mood-Bell Learning processes. LBLP Clininc director 95-96

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 taught for 26 years before retiring. I love science and everything about it. Not being away to stay away I joined the team at TBCS half time and have been loving it ever since. In the summer I commercial fish for salmon, halibut and blackcod. I have been married for 21 years and have 3 children. In my spare time I love to hunt, trap and fish. I appreciate the diversity and the kids and Twindly as well as their interest in learning.

Sadie Leader

j.s.leader11@gmail.com

Sadie is a Mother to a wolf pack of adventurous kids. An avid reader from a young age, Sadie now uses her passion for literature as a way to keep her 3 kids learning & entertained. Whether it is books being read aloud, podcasts or their favorite character's latest adventures there is a story being explored. Currently, Sadie is preparing to lead a group of readers into the heart pounding experience of completion with Battle of the Books. Stay tuned!

Sara Blydenburgh

psbly@mtaonline.net

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.

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.

Shelly Tuel

shellytuel@yahoo.com

I am homeschool mom of 4. I feel blessed to be spending this time with our children. We enjoy hiking, sledding, fishing, tide pooling, berry picking, gardening, raising chickens, hanging out around a campfire, and just about anything else we can find to do outside. I have been teaching at Twindly for the last three years, and I really enjoy getting to know the kids. I look forward to seeing them all grow from year to year. I always have my sidekick Greta with me (our youngest), she isn't old enough to officially attend school yet, but don't tell her that!

Sierra Hunsaker

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Hi, I am Sierra, a homeschool mother of 4. I am a recent peony farmer in Wasilla. I am excited to share new and creative ways to bring learning alive for students.



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Stephen Murray

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Teeland Middle School 7th grade math teacher for 3 years.
ANSEP chaperone for 2 years
Bachelor of Science - USMA
Master of Science in Administration - Central Michigan Univ.
K-8 Teaching Certificate - APU

Theresa Vandike

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I love music and children. As a youth I played the violin and sang in numerous choirs. Music has the power to inspire, empower and lift us emotionally and intellectually. I am excited to bring my knowledge and love of music to Twindly Bridge.

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.

Valerie Segerstrom

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Valerie is a certified teacher at Twindly Bridge Charter School.

Wendy Page

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I am a homeschool mom of four. I have a bachelors in music education and I am getting my masters in special education.
