

Meet the Teachers at...

Boulder OPTIONS

Holly Anderson

K12 Art, Photography

Holly Anderson was born in southern California. Shortly after, her family moved to Pagosa Springs in southwestern Colorado. In 2006 Holly earned her bachelor's degree in Art Education at Bethel University in St. Paul Minnesota. While in college she had the opportunity to study art in Florence Italy. This experience ignited in her a passion for art, travel, and adventure. Holly took her first teaching job in 2007 at the Classical Academy in Colorado Springs. In the summer of 2008 she was married and moved with her husband to Denver, where she has been teaching art classes at Monart School of the Arts. In her free time Holly loves to spend time with her husband, be creative, play outdoors, and read a good book while drinking a cup of coffee.

Joanna Buhlig

Kindergarten

Joanna Buhlig was born and raised in northern Illinois. She earned a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a Master's in Teaching from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. After living on a ranch during a summer in college, she was captured by Colorado's mountainous beauty. So, 5 years ago, she packed up and moved west, ready for adventure. She has 4 years of teaching experience the elementary classroom. Joanna is passionate about creating a safe, yet stimulating environment where kids are encouraged to love learning. Just married this past June, Joanna and her husband are enjoying spending time with family and friends, trying new recipes, and exploring new places both near and abroad.

Jennifer Condreay

Drama

Jennifer Condreay taught theatre for thirty years in the Denver-Metro area. After receiving her M.A. from the University of Denver in acting, her career started at Boulder High School and then moved to the Cherry Creek district. A former Alliance for Colorado Theatre president, she received the Colorado Theatre Educator of the Year award, the English Speaking Union Fellowship to study with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and three Cherry Creek Teacher of the Year awards. She has taught theatre abroad at The American School in London and St. Michel de Picpus in Paris. She has directed over 100 high school productions, two of which were featured as one of the top ten productions in the country at the International Thespian conference. Throughout her long career, Jennifer has challenged and inspired young actors, hundreds of whom appear on professional stages throughout the country, including Broadway. Jennifer performs in local community theatres, just recently appearing as Nat in The Rabbit Hole and The Mother Superior in Agnes of God. She serves as Drama Director at Greenwood Community Church and resides in Centennial with her husband Dennis of 30 years. She has two sons Clark (26) and Davis (21) who both live in the Denver area.

Lisa Cuss

Elementary Science, Electronics/Robotics

Lisa Cuss received her license in Elementary Education from the state of Tennessee, and has spent most of her career teaching 4th grade. While at home with her 3 children, she has continued to work part-time in education through private tutoring, teaching children with autism, and helping in schools serving children with special needs. Lisa is passionate about determining students' learning styles, and creating learning opportunities accordingly. She enjoys singing, jogging, grabbing a tea with girlfriends, and exploring the world with her husband and 3 young children.

Laurisa Fling

Elementary Destination ImagiNation, Social Studies, Rapid Math

Laurisa Fling is a native to Northglenn, Colorado. She received her Bachelors Degree in English and her Elementary Teachers license at Metro State College of Denver. Currently, she is working on her Master's of Education in Reading at Regis University. She also teaches at widely known tutoring company part time. Laurisa loves to be with her son, run in 5k races, read and spend time with her family and friends. She wants to provide a safe and positive environment for all of her students to learn in. Laurisa is very excited to be joining the Options team!

Stephanie Jarvis

1st Grade

Stephanie grew up in New England and graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 1995 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She started an amazing new adventure in her life when she moved to Colorado without knowing anyone here. She started working at a private preschool – 5th grade school teaching Kindergarten. For the following eight years she continued to teach the Core Knowledge curriculum in Kindergarten through 3rd grades through hands-on exploratory activities that she organized for her students on a daily basis. When she's not in the classroom she is out in the woods of Colorado experiencing the beauty of Mother Nature through hiking, camping, and photography or attending classes to earn her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

Lara Martella

Secondary Math, Logic, Destination ImagiNation

Lara Martella grew up in Louisville, Colorado, attended the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, majoring in Mathematics and Secondary education. She has been involved in Odyssey of the Mind, coaching high school cheerleading, fundraising and high school math lab tutor. Teaching special needs preschool in Broomfield gave her a great understanding of differentiated instruction she then worked with twice exceptional kids at a Thornton charter school. Lara has been a stay at home mom for 13 years (on and off) and lives in Broomfield with her husband and three children. In her spare time she loves attending her kids sporting events. Lara believes every child has the potential to be successful in math.

Deborah Milburn

Elementary Computers, Ameritowne, and Math

Deborah Milburn is a native of Boulder, Colorado. She has a Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of Colorado at Boulder and completed her Elementary Education License at Metropolitan State College in Denver. Deborah student taught 4th grade at Foothill Elementary in Boulder. Some of her favorite things include camping, hiking and spending time with friends and family.

Jen Moyers

Elementary Spanish

Jen Moyers earned her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from Oregon State University. She taught 4th grade in the Hazelwood School District (St. Louis, MO) for four years before moving to Colorado in 2004. Her experience in Colorado includes one year of teaching a K-4 class in a private school and three years teaching in the Options program. This past year she took a break from teaching to become the interim Children's Director at LifeBridge Christian Church. With the arrival of her third child, Jen is excited to return to two of her loves: her wonderful family and working with students in a classroom setting. Jen played basketball through college and enjoys all sports. She also has a passion for reading, scrapbooking, spending time with friends, playing games, and blogging.

Renita Myers

Secondary Social Studies, Yearbook/Journalism, Technical Writing, Speech/Debate

Renita Myers is a licensed secondary social studies teacher. She has five years experience teaching in public middle schools in Atlanta, GA, Mobile, AL and Casper, WY. Renita believes in a school community that will provide a safe, healthy, caring, engaging and challenging environment relevant to all learners. Using the 21st century skills, she believes students will be empowered to be successful in digital-age literacy, inventive thinking, effective communication and high productivity. She is dedicated to being apart of a community of learners involving students, parents, staff and extended community. Renita also enjoys spending time with friends and family, traveling, cooking and working out.

Beth Olson

Social Studies through Literature, Lit Circles

Beth Olson is a licensed teacher with a Master's Degree in teaching and a BA in Cultural Anthropology. She has nine years of teaching experience, ranging from kindergarten to high school. Her past experiences include directing a K-6 after-school program, teaching at-risk middle school students, and teaching middle school English and Social Studies classes. In addition, she has taught SAT prep classes through Boulder Valley School District. Beth currently works as an English and math teacher for Boulder OPTIONS and runs her own private tutoring business. Beth's educational philosophy incorporates the belief that all students have abilities—but that sometimes they need help in discovering what these abilities are and in gaining confidence to use them. Students can become their own best advocates when they know their own learning styles. When she isn't teaching, Beth enjoys spending time with her husband and sons (4 years and 8 months), playing outside, camping, and going on adventures, big and small.

Melissa Rummel

Secondary Science, MS Electronics/Robotics

Born and raised for the most part in Missouri, Melissa also lived in Hawaii for several years as child. This began her love for nature and the diverseness of Earth's ecosystems. In college Melissa studied Biology and Anthropology, while spending as much time as possible in the field or lab doing research. She has experience working with everything from freshwater turtles along the Missouri River floodplain, to running multiple greenhouses and experiments with flowering plants, to plant/insect interactions in the high alpine of Pennsylvania Mountain, Colorado. Melissa turned to teaching after starting her family as a way to combine her love of science and her desire to pursue meaningful work. Melissa loves being with children of all ages and has most recently worked with 9th and 10th grades teaching Earth Science and Biology. When not at school, you can find her spending time with her two children hiking, biking, camping, traveling, visiting with friends, or working to strengthen the charter school she helped to start in Coal Creek Canyon where she lives.

Toni Rasmussen Spruell

K-8 PE

Toni Rasmussen Spruell was born and raised in the tiny farm town of Exira, Iowa. She received her bachelor degree in Exercise and Sport Science/Athletic Training from Iowa State University. After a few service years in AmeriCorps in California, she went to graduate school at Humboldt State University and received her multiple subject and physical education teaching credentials. Work as a summer camp director in Estes Park brought her to Colorado where she would split her time between Rocky Mountain National Park and Summit County where she would teach snowboard lessons. Toni has been teaching P.E. at the Loveland and Fort Collins Options for two years and loves it! She lives with her husband and two dogs in Fort Collins. She enjoys all things outdoors and encouraging others to find activities they can have fun with while promoting life-long fitness.

Juliana Wilsey

K8 Music, Choir, Strings, Keyboard

Juliana Wilsey has been teaching music to people of all ages for twelve years. She founded and directed the Syracuse Home School Chorus for three and a half years until she married and moved from New York to Colorado. In addition, she has taught concert and jazz band, private piano, and general music K-12. Juliana holds a bachelor's and master's degree in music from Syracuse University. She has a passion for teaching in the home school community, enjoys making music with others, and is delighted to be a part of Options. She enjoys doing a variety of activities with friends and family in her free time, including hiking, running, swimming, cooking, baking, reading, watching movies, playing games, scrap booking, offering hospitality, chatting over coffee or tea, listening to music, writing letters, and singing around the piano – just to name a few.