

Homeschool Connections 2008-2009 Teacher Bios

Boniface, Karen

Karen has been teaching for almost 30 years, teaching students one-on-one and in classroom settings, on every level from kindergarten through college and adult. She has taught in both traditional classrooms, private schools and with homeschool groups. She has a B.A. in English and has a love for writing, grammar and classical literature. Her desire is to help all she teaches to become effective writers as well as enjoy the writing process itself.

Chester, Dan

Dan Chester was born and raised in Waterford, MI. Following graduation from Southfield Christian High School, he served five years in the United States Marine Corps as an Intelligence Analyst. Sensing a call to ministry during this time he left the military to attend Calvin College in Grand Rapids, MI earning a Bachelor of Arts degree with Honors in dual majors, Classical Languages and Religion and Theology. The Chester family, which includes wife Kathy, sons Bo (17) and Silas (9), and daughter Kaitlyn (14), then moved to Tulsa, OK to complete ministry training attending Oral Roberts University Graduate School of Theology and Missions. The Chesters have since returned to Michigan where they currently serve as Pastor and Outreach Coordinator respectively at Cross Church, Flint, MI. Dan is Pastor and Teacher and Kathy is Director of Inside Out Women's Ministry, an interdenominational outreach and teaching ministry to and for women. They share a heart for home schooling having home schooled their Bo for two years in middle school to prepare him for high school.

Computer Explorers

Eberle, Jackie

Jackie Eberle is a native of Syracuse, New York, majored in Art in High School but began to pursue her love of painting while living in Southern Indiana. Her paintings have won awards and sold in various parts of the country. She painted numerous wall murals in South Carolina, which is where her first Home School Art Classes began. Since moving to the Detroit, Michigan area, she has completed more murals and, in addition to Home School Connections, she offers summer art camps and private art lessons to adults and children. She has studied and expanded her medium to include drawing, sculpture, jewelry making and other interests her students have. After a lengthy interview process, she was offered a position as a Master Highlighter with Thomas Kinkaide. Please look for her upcoming Holiday Painting specially designed for the Salvation Army entitled, "The Army Includes Each One!"

Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we could ever ask or imagine, according to power at work in us."

Gernert, Tarla

Tarla has been involved in education for most of her life starting teaching as a teenager with Sunday school lessons and private piano lessons. After completing her B.S. degree in education at Liberty University, she taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades in public school for several years. She left that to work as an academic advisor at Liberty University School of Life Long Learning, advising adult students pursuing secondary degrees as well as teacher certifications. After making the decision to stay at home after her first child was born, she developed successful home based businesses. Once her children were in school, she taught school, worked in advertising sales, and studied real estate investment. When her family moved to North Carolina, she started homeschooling her two daughters and continued after moving back to Michigan. The community and resources available to homeschoolers in North Carolina greatly influenced her to develop some of those programs here in Michigan. She started Homeschool Connections to meet the needs of her own children and continues to support homeschoolers as they educate their children.

On the side, she enjoys reading, sewing, reality tv shows and helping others start their own businesses.

Holcomb, Gary

Gary graduated from the University of Toledo, with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. He worked as a software engineer for over 20 years. In 2003 he changed majors from engineering to education and has been privately tutoring students since then. He has four grown sons, three of whom successfully completed calculus at home. He and his wife, Kathy, lead a homeschool support group in Southfield and publish the newsletter Moms to Moms during the school year.

JammBand ~ Judy Judd and Deb Locke

Deb Locke has a lifelong interest and passion for music and science! She has 25+ years vocal, guitar and percussion experience working with pre-school age children through adults in both secular and Christian music environments. She has a bachelor's degree from Central Michigan University with concentrations in business and childhood development. Currently, she is employed part time as an automotive engineer. She is active at her church and teaches the Sunday morning Women's Bible study.

Judy remembers having an interest in music since she was a small child. She received an education degree from Michigan State University with a major in math/science and a minor in music. Following college she was a classroom teacher in the public school system for several years. She has been the music director at her church for the past 22 years working with the Children's, Adult and Handbell choirs and Sunday School music.

Deb and Judy co-teach in their music lessons and science classes. They have presented workshops at various churches, teach private music lessons and have taught in the enrichment programs in Almont and Oxford Schools and in Rochester for Homeschool Connections. They also have taught music for the Seeds of Faith homeschool program since it started. They are both members of the Praise Team at Holy Redeemer Church and believe that music is a gift from God they are to share and to use to help spread God's Word.

Kramer, Dr. Linda

Kramer, Dr. Linda – Teaches Chemistry and Physical Science
Linda Kramer earned a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry in 1981. She spent 7 years in industrial research and development before choosing to stay home with her children when her second child was born. Dr. Kramer taught chemistry one year at Rochester College and is currently a Substitute Teacher in the Troy School District. She is a published author and is involved in a leadership capacity with Christian Way, a ministry directed toward people who have been impacted by the religion called Christian Science. Her science classes provide a quality lab experience to all who take her classes.

LaVasseur, Dawn

Dawn LeVasseur has been working in the homeschool community for many years and has home schooled her 18 year old daughter all her life. She has taught government, arts & crafts and other home economic classes with Homeschool Connections since it began. Before she that taught at the Rochester Children at Home Gym Days from 1994- 2002, organized ROCH Science Fair, 2001 & 2002 and was the Christian Education Director & Sunday School teacher at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, Madison Heights, MI from 1991-2001. She currently attends Faith Lutheran

Church in Shelby Township, and is the Director of Christian Education. She is known as our very own "Martha Stewart".Z

McGarry, Coach Bill

Coach McGarry has always loved to play tennis. He worked his way through college by playing tennis. After getting his degree in Chemical Engineering, he realized that what he really wanted to do was to share his talent and love for tennis with others. He has been a sought after coach in this area for many years. He loves teaching kids to enjoy the game that has given him a lifetime of opportunities. He and his wife homeschool their two sons.

Moroney, Tim

Tim Moroney, homeschool graduate, is a 20 year old USCF rated chess expert as well as a certified coach and Tournament Director. He holds 4 National Championship titles in Scholastic tournaments, in addition to 5 State Championship titles. Tim has taught chess to more than 500 children in various schools, camps, and private programs throughout Metro Detroit. His past students include 2 National Championship and 2 State Championship winners. Tim's current aim is to acquire the FIDE Master title, the third highest recognition in chess.

Parus, Amanda

Amanda Parus, our high school Spanish teacher, is a full time student at Oakland University studying Secondary Education. She is majoring in Spanish and minoring in Chemistry. Amanda will complete her study of Secondary Education by the year 2010. She has been studying Spanish in school and with a private tutor for the past 7 years and spent a summer studying abroad in Spain. She has been working for Rochester Homeschool Connections for the past two years instructing students in both Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. She has an excellent grasp of the grammar of the Spanish language and a great love for all Hispanic things. She is a teacher who has a heart for children and is genuinely interested in their dreams and academic success. She is a Christian and member of Woodside Bible Church in Troy.

Stevens, Patti

Patti Stevens is a 19-year veteran of home-schooling, a true "pioneer." She taught all four of her children from first grade to high school graduation and is familiar with a wide variety of curricula as well as numerous extra-curricular materials. Her other experience in teaching and/or leading young people includes nearly a decade with her children's church class, almost two decades with her church's AWANA program, and work as a youth group sponsor before her own children were born. She is a passionate patriot who loves to search out the hand of God in her country's history, and she believes that educating Christian young people about their nation is the best way to win it back for Christ.

Wilgus, Jeannie

Wilgus, Jeannie -- Teaches Fun with Spanish (Grades 1-3 and 4-6)

Jeannie has her BS from Taylor University in Indiana and is currently certified in Elementary Education and Early Childhood in MI. She has taught in public and Christian schools and home schooled her own 3 children, ages 14, 16 and 18, for 9 years. Besides teaching for Homeschool Connections for the past 3 years, Jeannie has taught Spanish with Language Adventure in the Rochester School BASES program for 3 years and was involved in teaching a coop Spanish class as well. Recently she has also done some substitute teaching with Oakland Christian School of Auburn Hills. She has been on missions trips to Mexico three times and is involved in a Hispanic ministry in their church, Glen Oaks Alliance Church in Troy, MI.

