

GRAMMAR SCHOOL TEACHER BIOGRAPHIES

Betsy Bellingham

Betsy Bellingham is her daughter's mom. She began homeschooling when her daughter was 5 years old. Previously, she ran her own Interior Design Business. She has a BA from the University of Kentucky in Interior Design and Housing.

Kathy Herter

Kathy Herter earned her Bachelor's degree in History from Christendom College. She homeschools her three youngest children who also attend CCS. She has been homeschooling for fifteen years. She is excited to share her love of history and reading.

Nancy Juday

Nancy Juday, a mother of five, has been homeschooling for sixteen years. She spent 11 years working on Capitol Hill as a legislative advisor to various members of Congress prior to raising her family. Nancy holds the Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and the Masters of Science degree in Taxation. This is her eighth year teaching at CCS.

Kacky Kasinski

Kacky Kasinski received her BA in Philosophy with a minor in history from George Mason University. She has 8 children and has been homeschooling for 18 years. She is a trained 4H leader and is the leader of her parish's homeschool group. The past 16 years she has designed, organized and taught a wide variety of classes, clubs and retreat workshops for homeschool students. Her children have attended CCS for the past 3 years and she's looking forward to her first year teaching at CCS.

Mimi Larsen

Mimi Larsen is a homeschool mother of six. She earned her BBA from the College of William and Mary. This will be her eleventh year teaching at the Classical Cottage School.

Karen Magro

Karen Magro graduated from Biola University with a degree in English/Writing. She's been homeschooling her two boys since they were preschool age, and believes strong writing begins with ample exposure to well-written, engaging stories. Before she became a mom, Karen wrote ad copy and press releases for Fleetwood Homes and edited curricula for ESRI. She is currently working on her first novel—a YA post-apocalyptic sci-fi story set in the deep sea. Karen's approach to drawing focuses on coaching students to 1) build skills through daily creative habit, 2) translate observations into line and shape, and 3) use mistakes as opportunities for creative solutions in their work. Her most recent art projects include painting a timeline mural for Winchester Anglican Church and developing a series of colorful timeline icons to help kids memorize the people, events, and concepts of the Old Testament as part of the children's ministry curriculum.

Melissa McKay

Melissa McKay is a homeschool mother of three boys. Prior to homeschooling, she spent ten years teaching at various levels. In addition to her courses at CCS, she also currently teaches courses in Rhetoric and Children's Literature at Patrick Henry College. She holds a BA in English from Oglethorpe University and an MA from Middlebury College.

Kathleen Moorcones

Kathleen Moorcones lives in Clarke County and homeschools her 10 year old daughter. Kathleen received her BA in Sociology from George Mason University. This is her third year teaching at CCS. She has a love for the little ones and looks forward to teaching them in a fun and productive way.

Leila Robertson

Leila Robertson is a homeschool mother of four. She received her BS in Education from Old Dominion University. She taught middle school science and math for Arlington County Public Schools for eight years before choosing to stay home and raise her children. Shortly after moving to Winchester, she completed her MS Degree as a Reading Specialist from Shenandoah University and continues to be a licensed teacher. Leila has had the privilege of benefitting from the strong offerings at CCS since her oldest child started there in 2008 and the honor of teaching at CCS since 2014.

Julie Shanabrook

Julie Shanabrook was an Echols Scholar at the University of Virginia with a concentration in Biology, and received a Masters in Physical Therapy from Boston University. She is grateful to the CCS community for the homeschooling opportunities it has given to her now graduated daughters, as well as the fulfilling roles as teacher of Prima Latina, Study Skills, and Chemistry. Julie has enjoyed building on her high school years of Latin through the wonderful CCS Latin program and looks forward to another fun year of helping to develop the next class of enthusiastic young Latin students. Julie especially likes using hands-on, multisensory teaching to engage these young scholars. Salvete, discipuli!

Debbie Snyder

Debbie Snyder has a current California Teaching Credential from Pepperdine University, California. She has been an educator for over 30 years, teaching various subjects in public, private, and homeschool classrooms. For the last twenty + years, both on the West Coast and on the East Coast, she has been actively involved in speech and debate as a teacher, board member, and coach. After her daughter became very sick, Debbie became a passionate researcher of health topics in many areas of health, food, & lifestyle. She loves to share the knowledge she has gained with others, both young and old. This will be Debbie's fifth year teaching at Classical Cottage School.

Deanna Solomon

Deanna Solomon graduated Magna cum Laude from the University of Texas with a Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and a Concentration in Latin. Her studies took her to Greece and Italy, where she spent time traveling throughout mainland Greece and Italy. In 2015, she earned a Master of Education with High Distinction, earning a Gold Medallion, through Liberty University. In 2017, she earned an Education Specialist Degree in Curriculum and Instruction, also with High Distinction. She has over twenty-eight years experience teaching and tutoring in the private, church and home school environments, including fourteen years teaching Latin. An avid learner from the School of Life, Mrs. Solomon is passionate about Precept Bible Study, classical education, learning classical languages, reading great literature, sewing, and gardening. Deanna and her husband John are the parents of three boys: Taylor, Zachary and Mitchell, along with a wonderful "daughter in love" – Emily. Deanna not only blesses our program as a dedicated and creative teacher, but she also serves as the Classics Department Chair, the Registrar, and is a member of the Board of Advisors.

Angie Steele

Angie Steele is a homeschool mother of 5 children. She earned an undergraduate degree in English from Immaculata University and received her Master's in Education with a specialty in Reading from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She taught in Fairfax County Public Schools for 10 years. This will be her fourteenth year teaching at CCS

Kelly Summers

Kelly Mallory Summers is native of Winchester, but with a nomad's soul having lived in Dallas, San Diego, Honolulu, Norfolk, and Jacksonville FL. A former Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Portsmouth and Norfolk, Summers has a J.D., an M.A. in Government, and an M.S. in Forensic Science. She has used her education and trial experience to homeschool her three children for the last nine years, and to hopefully, make her classes as entertaining as possible.