

Teachers & Course Descriptions

Cyndi Glenn has a bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a minor in Music. She has also completed graduate courses in Education from the University of Pittsburgh. She is trained as an Orton-Gillingham reading instructor as well.

"I began teaching at the Pittsburgh New Church School in 1997 as a volunteer music teacher. I love the staff, students and atmosphere of this school. They provide a loving, respectful and comprehensive educational program for each individual student. I knew I wanted to be a bigger part of this community, so I completed my Master's degree coursework in education and continue to take classes here and there to further my teaching skills and knowledge. My son attends PNCS and loves it. I look forward to sharing my teaching skills and expertise with your child."

Music (All Ages)

Music at PNCS is a fun, hands on, and often, loud experience. The best way to learn music is to immerse yourself in the making of it. Younger students experience music through singing, dance, creative movement and circle games. Older students continue to enjoy singing and dance, but also add performing, composing and deconstructing pieces of music for a deeper level of appreciation and understanding. So come bang a drum, toot the recorder, compose your feelings in melody, or dance your cares away in music at PNCS.

Brianne Good has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and is certified by the State of Pennsylvania. She graduated college in 2015, and spent a year teaching preschool at the Bryn Arhyn Church School near Philadelphia. She is thrilled to join the faculty and staff at PNCS. Brianne was homeschooled from kindergarten all the way through senior year of high school. She looks forward to the opportunity to meld what she knows about homeschooling and teaching this year.

Science (Ages 5 – 9)

Through children's literature, experiments, and exploring the outdoors, we will look at subjects like insects, the solar system, the five senses, gems and crystals, the heart and lungs, reptiles and amphibians, and dinosaurs. In addition, we will conduct experiments with electricity, water, heat, light, and more. We will also have ample time for learning about the local ecosystems through exploration of the school grounds and nearby Frick Park.

Performing Arts (All Ages)

Performing Arts class introduces the world of theater, acting, and dancing. We will play games to increase volume, diction, improvisational ability, creativity, and more. Students will be involved in acting, building/designing sets, creating props, and finding/making costumes. By having experiences with being crew, students will come to better understand all that goes into a theatrical production. We will practice and perform short skits, choreographed songs, and plays.

Gerda Griffiths learned the Teaching of Phys. Ed. in college, along with other courses in education and childhood development. After college she got a degree in Fashion Design, and worked in that industry for several years. She took time out to raise children, and when her youngest was about to enter pre-kindergarten at PNCS, there was an opening for the position of kindergarten teacher, and she took the job! She has been the pre-k, kindergarten teacher as well as the phys. ed. teacher at PNCS now for 13 years.

Physical Education (All Ages)

During the years of teaching PE here at PNCS, I've learned how children of different ages and temperaments approach the social and physical challenges that occur in PE activities. I see it as my privilege to help children learn about themselves, to be okay with themselves, and help others be okay with themselves, too. I give praise for effort, and not just for being good at something. I also emphasize good sportsmanship and balanced nutrition. I look forward to doing fun and healthy activities with your children!

In the winter months, I am planning to challenge the 10 to 13 age group with learning to juggle and/or with tinikling, a dancing sport from the Philippines. We also will get in shape by doing a circuit of exercises such as pushups, jump rope, steps, and other activities that help with strength and coordination. Once we are able to be outdoors again, we will do activities based on the the Presidential Youth Fitness Program. Check it out here. <http://pyfp.org/> . Hopefully the students will come away from this term with a healthy outlook on life!

The 6 to 9 age group will have the same activities as the older group, minus the tinikling, as I do not have enough poles for the large group. Instead of tinikling, we will try Chinese jump ropes and yoga.

Through it all, good sportsmanship remains paramount. I have expectations around behavior, equipment use, and other boundaries. I help students remember that each of us has his/her own strengths and weaknesses, so we keep on trying to do our best and encourage each other.

Kindergarten

When they are not at art, music, or PE, the kindergarten students will be in the enriching environment of their "home room" or outside learning through play, story time, and quiet time. Some of the main ways children learn and absorb is through stories and through play. They learn about themselves when they take some time to quietly be on their mats with a loved toy or book. Your child is welcome to bring in a small blanket to keep in the classroom for quiet time. Hopefully, through these varied activities, both with peers and by themselves, they will begin learning how to be with others, and to have balance in their lives.

Julie Uber has bachelor's and master's degrees in elementary education and has taught art, science, and many other subjects from history to languages.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, from the time I was about five. I came to Pittsburgh to teach at Pittsburgh New Church School, and loved it! I've been here ever since. My husband Jamie and I raised four children, who each attended PNCS from kindergarten through 8th grade. We are so happy with the quality education they received and the nurturing environment that surrounded them. They are now in high school, college, and on into adulthood. I know how much they benefitted from the caring guidance of PNCS, and I'm proud to teach here."

Science (Ages 10 –12) "The earth is the Lord's and all its fullness; the world and those who dwell therein."

In science this year, the students will get lots of hands-on experience with the wonders of God's creation. We will build models of deserts and rainforests, research animals and plants from different habitats around the globe, and learn about ways to help take care of our world. One focus will be the eight major biomes of our planet, but we will still have time for experiments with electricity, magnets, water, and more.

Art (All Ages) "When I look at the heavens, the work of Your hands... How magnificent is Your name!"

The joy in creating is given to us by the Lord, and He encourages us to find a form of creativity that brings out good things in us. Children express themselves in art so freely compared to many adults. At PNCS, we go way beyond paper and pencil alone. Young people here try everything from papier-mache hippos to embossed metal Viking jewelry, and from color studies in fused glass to adopting the styles of famous artists. Art projects often have strong links with subject material in other fields of study, to enhance the learning. There are dozens of different art media to work with, providing dozens of helpings of fun.