

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.

Yoga (Grades 2–7)

This Iyengar-style yoga class will consist of a sun salutation warm-up, a workout (including basic yoga poses for strength and flexibility), followed by a meditative cool-down. Some classes will be led by Cyndi Glenn, who has been doing yoga for over 10 years, and some will be videos by Rodney Yee. Focus your mind and body for the day with morning yoga!

Cooking (Grades 4–7)

Cooking class will be offered the second half of the term. The class will cover cooking basics, such as: measuring properly, how to crack an egg without getting shells in your food, making quick breads, tasty hors d'oeuvres, and certain jellies and sauces from scratch. Homemade spaghetti sauce, applesauce, and raspberry jelly may be included. Yummy! Bring an appetite.

Linnea Heinrichs has a bachelor's degree from Bryn Athyn College of the New Church. She has worked with kids extensively, as a babysitter, nanny, teacher's assistant, and tour guide; she is excited to continue sharing knowledge with young minds at PNCS. Linnea attended New Church schools and she looks forward to giving back by teaching at a New Church school now. She loves to read and hopes to share her enthusiasm with all the kids she meets.

Literature (All Ages)

We will read several fictional tales and discover the elements of a good story. Students will learn to identify things such as plot, setting, and characters. We will discuss why we like certain stories, using what we learned about story elements.

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.

Sewing (Grades 4–7)

A six-week course for grades 4 to 7 taught by Mrs. Gerda Griffiths. The students will each make their very own pair of pajama pants! They will learn:

- about fabrics
- how to read the back of a pattern
- how to work with a pattern
- how to thread a sewing machine
- how to sew frontwards and backwards
- how to use an iron

They will also practice sewing on buttons – a very useful life skill! This course requires a trip with parents to the fabric store ahead of time to pick out a couple yards of flannel for their pajama pants (no fleece or knit fabrics please.)

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."

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.

Laura Hall has a bachelor's of science degree in mathematics from Penn State. Laura is the mother of six children. She homeschooled her children for many years then gradually phased them into high school and college. Laura also has experience teaching religious classes at her church and was chair person for crafts for vacation Bible school.

Laura first came to PNCS as a substitute teacher in 2017. "I love how the school feels like a one room school house. It is such a wholesome and warm environment to learn in."

Science (All Ages)

The children will learn about our beautiful world through hands-on science projects, experiments, and demonstrations. They will explore God's creation through touch, sight and sound. Age-appropriate science labs are designed to inspire them to further their studies in science and engineering.