

Faculty

Pre-K Class

Lindsey Chapman is the lead teacher in the Redwood Pre-K class. Lindsey holds a degree in education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. Before joining the faculty at Redwood, she taught preschool, Kindergarten and first grades in South Carolina (her home state) and Kentucky, when she relocated here with her husband and infant son. Lindsey has an ability to create lessons that meet the diverse needs of all learners in her class, by correlating classroom materials and everyday life. She is excited to develop learning opportunities for our students as well as designing our preschool classroom to invite exploration and creativity.

In Mrs. Chapman's words: "My all time favorite quote is that of Benjamin Franklin, "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn". I'm very excited about joining the Redwood team because it will give me the opportunity to involve my students in creating their own learning environment. By allowing the students the opportunity to have a say, we will be creating an environment that fosters creativity, pride, and an eagerness to explore and grow."



Claire Lovell joins Lindsey as the Pre-K assistant teacher. Claire holds a Bachelor of Science in education and has worked with young children in a variety of settings. She worked as an assistant in a preschool, has been a summer camp counselor and facilitator, teaches swim lessons and works as a lifeguard. Claire has subbed in our Pre-K class and the children have already formed a relationship with her. She is a warm, friendly presence in the classroom and will work to help all of the Pre-K friends reach their goals.

In Ms. Lovell's own words: "I'm excited to be working at Redwood because here, children have the opportunity to learn and grow individually and are able to fully enjoy the world outside of the school walls everyday."



Kindergarten Class

Alison Urs has been the kindergarten lead teacher at Redwood since 2015. She has a bachelor's degree in education from Bath College of Higher Education, a master's degree in education from the University of Kentucky, and a literacy endorsement from the University of the Cumberlands. Alison has 16 years of teaching experience. She has previously taught first grade at the Chinese International School in Hong Kong, kindergarten and first grade with Fayette County Schools, and kindergarten at the Fayette Cooperating Nursery School and Kindergarten.

In Mrs. Urs words: "I believe in providing young children with a positive first experience in school. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with your children to being able to provide experiences that will help them develop academically, socially and emotionally."



Jill Shearer has been Alison Urs' assistant teacher since her children were in Mrs. Urs' class at Fayette Coop Preschool. Mrs. Shearer holds a BA in Journalism, with a minor in Art Studio from the University of Kentucky. She and Mrs. Urs have worked together for many years as a teaching team and she joined us two years ago to work with her again. Before assistant teaching, Jill was a staff artist for the Herald Leader and then moved on to be a small business owner, opening a record shop, while continuing freelance graphic design work. Jill makes all the children in her class feel welcome and nurtured.

In Mrs. Shearer's words: "The children's energy and inquisitiveness inspires me to teach them and guide them as they grow and take on new challenges. This is part of what makes every day at Redwood a great day for me."



Lower Elementary Class

Alicia Vance joins Redwood as the lead teacher for the blended class of first and second graders. Mrs. Vance is a veteran teacher who holds a master's degree in education and has taught kindergarten, first, and second grade for 18 years. She is committed to helping students reach their potential and become passionate and successful lifelong learners. Her talents lie in differentiating lessons to meet the needs of all students. She relocated to the Lexington area 2 years ago with her husband and three children and is excited to join our team of teachers.

In Mrs. Vance's words: "I feel very inspired that there are still parents, community members, and educators who have a passion for teaching children in the way they were meant to learn. I feel that Redwood meets a need that the current education system does not meet. I admire the project learning model combined with the high expectations of educating the whole child that Redwood values."

We are also excited to welcome Mrs. Vance's son, Hayden, who will be going into third grade, to our blended class of second, third and fourth graders!



Stacey Springer will be taking the position of assistant teacher for the blended class of first and second graders. Stacey holds a bachelor's degree in unified elementary and special education and is on her way to graduating with a master's degree in education in May 2018. Stacey describes herself as a lifelong learner and is eager to help design and implement hands on progressive lessons to support all types of learning. Stacey has been a second and third grade teacher and an Early Head Start home visitor, before relocating to Kentucky with her husband and 18-month-old daughter.

In Mrs. Springers' words: "I believe that all children learn in their own unique way. It is a dream to be able to join a community of families and friends who also believe in educating the whole child. I hope to be able to add something special as our children learn and grow."



Upper Elementary Class

Moira Dalibor returns to Redwood to be the lead teacher for our blended class of second, third and fourth grade students. With a degree in education, Mrs. Dalibor taught and tutored Middle School language arts and math for nearly a decade before joining our teaching staff last year. She has an uncanny ability to encourage creativity in our students and continually helps to develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills. Always up for a challenge, she allows students to explore and gives them the freedom to think outside the box and come up with new and unique ways of tackling problems.

In Mrs. Dalibor's words: "I'm very excited to be returning to Redwood as a lead teacher in the 2,3,4 class. I am so pleased to have found a school whose philosophy and vision match my own and I feel very fortunate to be part of this community as we grow and transition."

We are also excited to welcome Mrs. Dalibor's son, Peter, to our new Pre-K class!



Sasha Holt joins Mrs. Dalibor as the teaching assistant for the 2, 3, 4 class. Mrs. Holt was a teacher for eleven years before staying home to raise her two young children. She holds a masters degree in education and taught preschool-12th grade, emphasizing in language arts, drama and humanities. Mrs. Holt has an eye for the creative process, both in creating and evaluating. She has directed over 30 theatrical plays and musicals with students in pre-K through 12th grades, including Beauty & the Beast, Les Miserables, Into the Woods, and Suessical.

In Mrs. Holt's words: "I'm excited to share my love and knowledge of language arts and the performing arts with students at Redwood, while helping these young learners achieve success in all subject areas, express their individuality, and experience working together to create and explore."

We also welcome Mrs. Holt's son, Foster, to our Kindergarten class and daughter, Posy, to our Pre-K class!



Art

Sydney Cox is an artist and art teacher who holds a B.F.A. in Art Studio and a B.A. in Art Education. She has taught art education to elementary and middle school students in Mercer and Fayette counties. Sydney is an art educator striving to provide the highest quality education for all students. Her goal is to help every child achieve to the best of his or her ability, not only in art, but in all subject areas. She hopes to build confidence in her students and teach problem solving skills that they can use throughout their lives. Sydney and her husband own an art studio in Lexington, where they hold art classes and camps for families in our community.

In Mrs. Cox's words: "In art class, all students are encouraged to investigate, imagine, and create. Art class is the perfect place to employ student-centered and inquiry-based teaching methods where the students lead their own learning. I want my students to know that the art room/studio is a center of innovation where creativity thrives – it is a "space of possibility." With progressive education at the heart of my teaching practice, I am exploring how art can merge diverse student interests and passions in an evolving, culturally responsive, and socially relevant way."

We are also excited to have Mrs. Cox's daughter, Quinn, join our Pre-K class!



Music

Beth Ellen Rosenbaum is a children’s music specialist, pianist, and founder of Children’s Music Workshop. She holds performance degrees from Juilliard and Oberlin, and has been on many teaching faculties, including Juilliard, Chapin, Hewitt School, United Nations International School, Brooklyn College Preparatory Center for the Arts, Lexington Montessori, and Sayre School. She has taught at Redwood Cooperative since its founding in 2014. Beth Ellen holds certifications in Orff-Schulwerk and Curriculum Development, Kodaly,, Music Learning Theory, and Smithsonian Folkways World Music Pedagogy, in addition to extensive studies in Dalcroze Eurhythmics and Suzuki Piano. Beth Ellen is the recipient of an Artist Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women and She serves on the board of directors of the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras.

In Mrs. Rosenbaum’s words: “I love teaching music at Redwood because the hands-on, experiential, progressive nature of our school aligns beautifully with the music and movement methodologies that I am excited to use in our music classroom. I am also inspired by the dedication and energy that arises from our parent-teacher cooperative.”



Science

Lauren York is an educator who holds a degree in education and has worked in both the Jessamine Early Learning Village and Jessamine County Public Schools. She always had a passion for teaching science to her students and incorporating STEM education into the daily curriculum. Mrs. York has a passion for finding ways to teach children that gets them excited for learning, inspires questions about everything they wonder about, and providing a caring atmosphere where children feel comfortable. Lauren is also the Director of a parent's day out program in Lexington.

In Mrs. York's Words: "I am excited for the opportunity to teach Science in a fun, hands-on way that will spark a love for learning in our children, encourage them to ask lots of questions, and inspire a love and respect for our natural world. Chris and I are equally thankful for Eliza and Landon's first school experience to be at Redwood with all of these wonderful people who are mindful and invested in these children and understand the importance of making school challenging and developmentally appropriate.

We are excited to welcome Mrs. York's Daughter, Eliza, to our Pre-K class and son, Landon, to our Kindergarten class!



Japanese

Shino Knudsen has been the Redwood Japanese teacher since 2015. She moved to Lexington, with her family, from Tokyo, Japan, where she was an acupuncturist. Her first job in the U.S. was at the University of Kentucky Japanese Kindergarten Program as an assistant teacher, and she went on to become a classroom teacher in April 2015. Shino's Japanese class is an immersive instruction complete with singing and movement.

In Mrs. Knudsen's words: "I want to share the joy of learning a foreign language and inspire the interest in other cultures."



P.E.

Paul Hickner joins Redwood as the PE teacher. Mr. Hickner is a musician with extensive experience in music education as well as more than 18 years of experience teaching Elementary and Middle School Physical Education. He has knowledge of our school building as well, as he taught PE at Community Montessori school of almost two decades. Mr. Hickner's teaching style focuses on each student reaching his or her potential in the spirit of cooperative Physical Education.

In Mr. Hickner's own words: "I have been working in the education field for over four decades and it is always wonderful to see the look on a child's face who has discovered something new about their abilities and shows a desire to learn more."



Extended Day

Sasha Holt (see full bio above) will be teaching in our extended day program Monday through Friday and we are excited to have her enthusiasm and creativity added to the program.

Tracy Lawson taught in our extended day program last year and is joining us again for the upcoming school year, Monday through Thursday. Tracy is a mom to Levi Lawson, second grader at Redwood, as well as two older daughters who often step in to help with Redwood events. Tracy is a nurturing, kind presence in our after school program and works hard to incorporate creative games and activities with our students. You can often find Tracy sitting on the floor with a group of children surrounding her, completely engaged in what she is saying.

In Mrs. Lawson's words: "I am really excited to start school again. With a new facility, added families and awesome teachers, this is going to be a great year!"



Marcy Pierce is a masters' degreed educator with over 14 years of teaching experience working in Frankfort Independent Schools and Fayette County Schools. She has served as a special education director, assessment coordinator and worked in gifted and talented services. We are happy to have Marcy join Sasha on Fridays as the other half of the extended day team.

In Mrs. Pierce's words: "I am truly honored and humbled to be part of Redwood Cooperative School. The climate feels like family not only for the students but for the parents also. It's reassuring knowing each child is truly treated as an individual. My philosophy has always been to treat others as you want to be treated so rest assured I will treat each of your precious children as my own when they are with us."

We also welcome Ellie and Audrey to our second grade classes!



Staff

Director

Sarah Cummins is the Director of Redwood Cooperative School. Sarah has been a science teacher and school administrator for the past 10 years. During her time in these roles, she has developed a love of coordinating school efforts, developing curriculum, and being a support for teachers, students and families. Sarah has a son, Theo, entering the fourth grade at Redwood and her son, Coby, is entering High School this year.

In Sarah's Words: "I am so excited to be a part of this wonderful learning environment and am looking forward to helping Redwood grow, while maintaining the family feel that is inherent to our school."



Finance

Jen Adler takes on the role of Accounts Manager for Redwood. Jen is a parent to two Redwood students. Rose is 6 and Lily, who has been a student since Redwood's first year, will soon be 9. She and her husband, Mark, chose Redwood because of its well-rounded education, caring environment, and abundant outdoor time. Jen has degrees in biology and teaches in Cynthiana for Maysville Community and Technical College. She is also a Kentucky Master Certified Environmental Educator. For 9 years, she was on the board of directors for the Kentucky Association for Environmental Education, including 3 years as Treasurer and 2 years as President. Jen also served as the Treasurer for Redwood last year and is excited to continue supporting this amazing, growing school.

In Jen's words: "We wanted a school that could maintain our children's natural curiosity and love of learning. We have been amazed that Redwood has instead increased both!"



Enrollment

Katherine Greene-Owens takes over the position of Redwood Cooperative's Enrollment Coordinator. Katherine is a Lexington Native and graduate of Transylvania University with a B.A. in English. Katherine has logged countless hours teaching students ages 2-8 at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning. She has also served as their office and events coordinator for six years, where she gained experience enrolling thousands of children and families in the Carnegie Center's education programs. Katherine is mom to Gabriel Owens who will be in our Lower Elementary blended first and second grade class.

In Katherine's Words: "After 10+ years working with various nonprofit organizations in office and events coordination, I am excited to work with Redwood and share my passion for the mission and vision of our school with the local community."



Family Involvement

Alex Stocker steps in as Redwood's Family Involvement Coordinator. Alex is a Veterinary Nurse and a Nursing Supervisor at Landsdowne Veterinary Clinic and Dental Center. She is pursuing a degree in Veterinary Technology. Alex was responsible for coordinating many social events for her daughter, Channing's Kindergarten class last year and helped put together classroom communication systems. Alex also serves on the Redwood Cooperative School Board of Directors.

In Alex's words: "I love the community that we have at Redwood Cooperative. I have enjoyed helping families to be involved at Redwood and bringing families together at school and at after school social events. I am excited to be able to coordinate these efforts for everyone this year!"



Facilities

John Walker is the Facilities Manager and will be assisting Redwood with everything related to our school's Buildings and Grounds. John is a Civil Engineer and currently works in construction for Brett Construction. John's son, Ben, will be in the Lower Elementary blended class and John also serves on the Redwood Board of Directors.

In John's Words: "I am excited to help Redwood settle into our wonderful new location. There are so many more opportunities with our new buildings and grounds and I am eager to help make improvements and explore the possibilities of our new school home."



Office

Anita Bishop steps in to help in the Redwood School Office. Anita manages all of the restaurants at the Bluegrass Airport and has spent more than two decades in office management. She enjoys helping businesses and non-profit organizations become systematically sound. Anita has a daughter, Olivia, in the Upper Elementary blended class.

In Anita's words: "I have been a Redwood Parent for two years and I am excited to see Redwood grow to include many more wonderful families. I love being involved in my daughter's school and helping in the office allows me more opportunity to help the whole Redwood community."

