

JADYN HARRIS

Lead Editor

Jadyn Harris began teaching in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in 2006 and recently moved to Champaign, Illinois to pursue her PhD in Curriculum & Instruction at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She holds a Master's Degree in Music Education from SMU. Jadyn specializes in student engagement, social & emotional learning, and arts integration and will be adding Critical Race Theory to her studies in Illinois. She hopes to change the face of education for children of color in urban public schools.

When writing lessons, Jadyn integrates multiple skills and subject areas, maximizing students' engagement level and potential for synthesizing information.

A native of the San Francisco Bay Area and a true animal lover, Jadyn is owned by two dogs and two cats.

KRISSI ODEN

Visual Art

Krissi Oden is a visual arts teacher at Braswell High School in Denton, TX. She holds a Master's Degree in Art History and Museum Education from the University of North Texas and a Master's of Teaching in Art Education from Texas Women's University. She has over 11 years of experience in Art Education with a philosophy that focuses on a Constructivist approach to teaching and learning. Krissi's goal as a teacher is to empower students to celebrate their uniqueness and build upon their own experiences and cultures as they learn and grow. She believes that learning goes far beyond the classroom. Therefore, she is very excited about the potential of this curriculum to take learning to the next level in a fun and interactive space! Krissi is a native Texan and lives in Denton, Texas. She loves spending time with her family as well as working on her own art, specializing in painting and photography.

CHRISTINA BECK

Science

Christina Beck is an Agriculture Science and English Teacher at Alvord High School where she has been teaching for three years. She has a Master's Degree in Science Education and Curriculum from UTA. Her specialization is using inquiry based learning to get students actively engaged in science education. She is passionate about sustainable farming, creating urban farmers, and getting more kids involved in agriculture.

"Getting more kids interested in agriculture has always been a big goal of mine. Working on this project has allowed me to get further into that goal while also supporting education at an incredible event for family learning and fun."

When she's not teaching or writing curriculum, Christina works in her Denton apiary and urban farm with her husband, children, chickens, and miniature cows.

MORGAN NEVAREZ

Social Studies/Sociology/Psych

Morgan Nevarez has served as the Department Head of Social Studies at Alvord High School. There she taught Government, Economics, Dual Credit US History, and Sociology. She holds a Master of Arts in Teaching with an emphasis in History. She taught Dual Credit history classes for Weatherford College and is working on her Graduate hours in Economics. She has a passion for learning and loves teaching a variety of subjects at different levels and is now working as an 8th grade US History teacher in Keller ISD.

MARY BYRD

English Language Arts

Mary Byrd teaches developmental reading and writing at Weatherford College. Before becoming an adjunct instructor she taught high school English and wrote grants for non-profits and local governments. She is interested in early childhood literacy and helping students who struggle with reading and writing find joy and interest in literacy education. Mary holds a Master's degree in Public Administration and is finishing up her M.Ed in literacy studies. She is a Texas transplant originally from Florida and lives with her husband in Weatherford, Texas. When not teaching, Mary enjoys blogging and reading as many YA novels as she can.

SHERRY DIETERICH

Mathematics

Sherry Dieterich is a mathematics teacher at Braswell High School in Denton, Texas. She has been teaching high school mathematics for 10 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics and a Master's Degree in Administration. Sherry's goal is to help students be prepared for the world after high school. "I really enjoyed writing for the State Fair of Texas. I have attended the Fair all my life and absolutely love it." She is married and has a daughter who is attending the University of Texas in Austin.

SHANNON FLANAGAN

Mathematics

Shannon Flanagan is a math teacher at Braswell High School in Denton, TX. She holds a Master's Degree in Teaching Mathematics from Texas Woman's University. She has 12 years of math teaching experience ranging from 9th to 12th grade. Her goal as a teacher is for every student to feel they can do math and that it really is not as hard as they may have believed. She tries to bring as many creative and fun ideas for learning into the classroom as possible and is excited about this project with the State Fair. This is a chance to take kids into the "real world" to experience math! Shannon grew up in the great state of Texas and lives in Denton. She loves spending time with her family, especially her adorable 3-year-old nephew. She loves sports; her favorite team is the Dallas Mavericks.

BREA RATLIFF

Mathematics

Brea Ratliff is the Secondary Mathematics Research Coordinator for the Research in Mathematics unit and an adjunct lecturer at Southern Methodist University. She has taught and coached elementary, middle and high school teachers in the teaching of mathematics. Brea is on the board of directors for the Benjamin Banneker Association, Inc. and has written mathematics curricula for several organizations, including the Dallas Independent School District and Big Thought. She has also served as the DeSoto ISD K-12 mathematics supervisor, and completed her M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2012.

TENILLE SHADE

Social Studies

Tenille Shade is a 4th grade teacher at Pecan Creek Elementary in Denton, TX. She has taught in the intermediate grades for 14 years, and as a native Texan she has special place in her heart for our great state history. She has a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Arlington, and she has served on the DISD Curriculum Writing Team for the last four years. As a district staff developer, she spreads her enthusiasm for reading, writing, and history through book evangelism, and her passion for Project Based Learning, Understanding By Design, and technology integration is evident throughout the State Fair Lesson plans. She has two amazing college-aged bonus kids and a creative, quirky husband who brightens her world.

MELODY TOWNSEL

Social Studies

Melody Townsel teaches AP US History, AP Language and Composition, and broadcast journalism at Dallas ISD's Booker T. Washington High School. She also coaches debate and sponsors several school clubs, including Feminist Club, Radio Club and Secular Students Alliance. This is the seventh year within DISD for Townsel, a DISD distinguished teacher, who was one of 20 teachers selected nationwide to attend the 2015, NEH-funded "Voices Across Time" Teacher Institute at the University of Pittsburgh, designed to help K-12 teachers use music as a primary source to teach US history and other social-studies subjects. Townsel also serves as a part-time study-session presenter for the National Math Science Initiative, and is a member of the Teacher Alumni Advisory Board at the Dallas Institute for the Humanities and Culture.

GEORGIANA HOWARD

Social Studies

Georgiana Howard is currently a history teacher at Mesquite ISD. A Dallas native, she graduated from Booker T. Washington High School and went to Converse College on a music scholarship. After graduation, she began working for Big Thought in their afterschool program. Later she went on to work for Girl Scouts of North Texas and Dallas ISD at Irma Lerma Rangel Young Leadership School. When writing lessons, Georgiana tries to make the lesson relatable to the children while focusing on higher-level thinking. "It is important that children are able to connect culturally to the city they live in while challenging them to absorb and interact with their environment." Georgiana is a full time graduate student completing her Curriculum and Instruction degree from Texas A&M at Commerce. She lives in downtown Dallas with her dog George.