

# 2017 Summer Day Instructors Profiles

## **Art with Amy Beck**

Amy is an elementary education teacher, holding a BA in English and German from the University of Portland, and MAT from Western Governors University. She has worked with the Summer Day program in multiple roles since 2007, and she is thrilled to be teaching Art this summer. Amy also teaches ballet for American Dance Institute. In her free time, Amy enjoys reading, singing and exploring the outdoors with her baby boy.

## **Art with Amanda Amsel**

Amanda is both an artist and National Board Certified Visual Art Educator (NBCT), K-12, currently working at Seattle Academy of Arts and Sciences 9-12 and Seattle Public, K-5. Amanda graduated with a BFA in Fine Arts, Psychology, and Education from Drury University in Missouri. She received her MEd. in Integrating Arts and Performance Learning from City University of Seattle. Find art examples at [www.amselart.com](http://www.amselart.com). Her personal artwork employs layers of printmaking, sewing, and mark-making, using mixed media and other found materials.

## **Art with Nicole Appell**

Nicole is an artist who specializes in working with youth in community art projects. A graduate of the UW School of Art, Nicole has taught art at many venues including the Kirkland Arts Center, University of Washington, Seattle and Lake Washington Public Schools. In addition to her work in the classroom, Nicole also paints, creates and exhibits. Drawing her artistic inspiration from nature, in her off-hours, Nicole enjoys hiking and exploring the wilderness.

## **Art with Alisha Dall'Osto**

Alisha is a teaching artist specializing in painting, drawing and multi-media art-making. She teaches around Seattle with youth organizations, museums, the Gage Academy of Art and has taught art with the Summer Day camp since 2009. Alisha is passionate about designing challenging and fun projects that integrate art, science, literature, and social studies. For work samples visit [www.alishadallosto.com](http://www.alishadallosto.com).

## **Art with Shari Kaufman**

Shari is a working artist in the mediums of ceramic sculpture and hand knit silver jewelry. She shows her work in galleries around the Northwest. Shari also teaches K-2 art in four Seattle elementary schools where she focuses on exploring different mediums and “unleashing” children’s creativity.

## **Art with Britt Rynearson**

Britt has taught art for the past 17 years to all ages at Coyote Central, Cornish, Gage, Bertschi, Centrum, among others. Her undergraduate in Fine Art is from Scripps College and her Masters of Fine Art with a focus in Arts Leadership is from Seattle University. She is passionate about textiles and fashion and her three lovely children.

**Art with Beth Sims**

Beth is a middle school STEM teacher at Technology Access Foundation Academy in Federal Way, WA. Over the course of her career in education, she has worked with students from a multitude of grade levels, from kindergarten through post graduate. She has taught in both the elementary and middle school divisions of the UW Summer Youth Program.

**Art/Science and Storymaking with Clara Hanson**

A graduate from the University of Northern Iowa, Clara enjoys all opportunities to explore with children. Some of her favorite subjects are foreign languages (especially Japanese and Spanish), sign language and Language Arts. Clara's interests include writing stories and poetry, playing violin and piano, and running the beautiful trails of Fort Ward State Park.

**Art/Science with Andrea Johnson**

Andrea is a 4th grade teacher in Renton Schools. Previously, she was involved in the world of theater, working with designers and actors making costumes. Andrea has been in Seattle for 17 years and loves the Pacific Northwest where there is plenty of rock climbing, skiing and cycling. Her most recent passion is mountain biking.

**Art/Science with Mallory Wilson**

Mallory is a graduate of the University of Washington's Master of Education program. She has been a Special Education teacher for five years. She is currently in school earning her second masters in hopes of becoming a principal. She has been working with students in various settings for over 10 years. In her spare time she likes to read, attend concerts and sporting events, and do arts and crafts. She also enjoys spending time with family, friends and her dog Linus.

**Art/Science with Samantha Wilson**

Samantha earned her Masters in Teaching at Concordia University and just completed her first year of teaching. She teaches first grade in Vancouver, WA and is excited to be in Seattle for the summer at UW Summer Day. She has been working with students in various settings for over 10 years. In her spare time she likes to paint, attend sporting events and spend time with family, friends, and her dog Pepper.

**Creative Writing/Storymaking with Mercedes Diggs**

Mercedes has been a teaching artist in Seattle since 2002. Over the years she's enjoyed working with Seattle Children's Theatre, British American Youth Festival Theatre, and Powerful Schools to bring acting fundamentals to classrooms and afterschool programs. Mercedes has an M.A. in Teaching from the UW and a performance background in musical theater and improv. During off-hours, Mercedes can be found solving logic problems and riding the zipline at Lincoln Park.

**Creative Writing/Storymaking with Emily Rich**

Emily has been working with the Summer Day program since 2012. She currently teaches High School English and Special Education. Before moving to Washington, Emily attended Northern Arizona University where she obtained her M.S. degrees in Elementary and Special Education. When she is not working, Emily takes every chance she can get to visit her family in Alaska where she grew up.

### **Creative Writing and Music-making with Arni Adler**

Arni is a multi-disciplinary artist, accomplished in visual art, writing, singing and songwriting. She believes in the transformative power of the arts. Arni exhibits her paintings and collage work in and around Seattle. She records with the folk-pop vocal trio Uncle Bonsai and performs with the ukulele trio The Blue Janes. She has provided professional development in writing for teachers and students in Seattle public schools and hosted a student open mic for the nonprofit Powerful Schools. Arni teaches to kids of all abilities at the Seattle Children's PlayGarden. "My specialty is helping people who want to express something — in a song, a poem, a painting — get past those pesky obstacles to doing so," she says. Learn more about Arni at <http://www.arniadler.com>.

### **Drama/Storymaking with Dora Lanier**

Dora is an actor, director and teaching artist and has been an instructor with the Summer Day Program for many years. This year Dora completed her four part western, time travel, romance novella series, published by The Wild Rose Press. Dora holds a MFA from UW-Madison and a BA from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

### **Drama with Angela Kelley**

Angela has many years of experience working with kids and theatre. She presents environmental workshops in schools throughout King and Snohomish Counties. Angela has been a professional actor for over twenty years. In addition to her theatre experience, she performed with "It's a Mystery", an interactive improvisational theatre company that performed on the Spirit of Washington Dinner Train.

### **Drama with Terence Kelley**

Terence is a professional actor and has been an instructor with the Summer Day Program for many years. He has directed and choreographed at local schools and plays a detective with "It's a Mystery" – an interactive improvisational theatre company that performs on the Spirit of Washington dinner train.

### **Kids In Motion Classes (KIM) with Gretchen Gray**

Gretchen teaches elementary P.E. for Seattle Schools. She is excited to share her passion for daily physical activity and activities that nurture teamwork and cooperation. When she is not working, she enjoys spending time playing and watching sports, and hanging out with her five siblings.

### **Kids In Motion Classes (KIM) with Regan Wessman**

Regan has a BS in Kinesiology, and is currently pursuing a Master's in Teaching in order to teach Physical Education. As a coach in multiple sports, she is passionate about making athletics and fitness fun, while developing lifelong healthy habits for all kids. When she is not working, Regan enjoys cooking, hiking, running and exploring the PNW.

### **Science with Hannah Earhart**

Hannah earned her M.Ed. from U.W. in 2014. Since then, she has taught Middle School Science Literacy at the Attic Learning Community in Woodinville. Last year Hannah spent the summer working with other

teachers and scientists at the U.W's Center for Sensorimotor and Neural Engineering. When she is not teaching, Hannah enjoys taking long walks, podcasts, and reading.

#### **Science with Christine Lambard**

Christine will complete her MIT from UW in June 2017. She is enjoying her student teaching at a STEM K-8 in Seattle working with 5th graders. She has spent many years studying science and especially enjoys learning about genetics, astronomy and environmental science. She has also spent 3 years working in live theater as a scenic artist. She loves exploring with her nieces and nephews and looks forward to many hours at the zoo this summer with her family.

#### **Science with Barbara Purn**

Barbara has an MA in Education and has taught with the UW Summer Day program for many years. In 2014 she retired from her job as a teacher at Villa Academy. Barbara is passionate about travel and has recently been to Kenya, India, Nepal, Cuba, Ireland, Spain, Iceland and Hawaii. Barbara also enjoys gardening, and walks with her Havanese dog, Mijo.

#### **Science with Julie Schmick**

Julie teaches technology at the STEM K-8 School in West Seattle. Her passion centers around engaging learners of all ages in the exploration of coding, stop motion animation, and video creation to assist in the demonstration of learning. Her tool kit has experiences from 15+ years of being an elementary principal and over a decade of hands-on, inquiry based classroom teaching.

#### **Science with Angela Taylor**

Angela has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering with an aerospace focus from the University of North Dakota. She spent a couple years at Boeing working in flight test engineering. She now works as a math and science teacher, using her background in engineering to enable a hands-on approach to learning. In her free time, Angela enjoys crafting, playing the saxophone, and spending time in nature.