



# Our Amazing Teachers at Home Ed Plus

## Core Subjects Teachers (by Grade/Subject)

### **Sherry Carlson:**

#### **KONOS Upper Level Kinder-1st Grade**

About Mrs. Carlson:

I have 14 plus years of teaching experience in the classroom at Home Ed Plus. I am a Christian and long-time member of Westbury Baptist Church with more than 25 years of teaching experience (Bible Study & VBS). My love for God and his precious children are what motivate me and, of course, a smile and hug from my former students!

A Parent's Perspective:

The kids absolutely love Mrs. Carlson. She is the perfect "first teacher" for kids just starting school. She is calming, warm, keeps wiggly kids engaged in the material, and knows the right dynamic to establish good classroom behavior while encouraging creativity and curiosity.

### **Jennifer Triplett:**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts; 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sciences; Hands-On Arts and Crafts (lower elem.), Art with the Masters (Jr High/High School), Elementary Drama, Grammar Review for Teens, Speech & Debate (High School)**

About Mrs. Triplett:

Jennifer Triplett is a fellow home school mom with 15 plus years of experience in the classroom. She is a firm believer in the notion that children learn best when engaging ALL of their senses in a fun, energetic classroom environment.

A Parent's Perspective:

Mrs. Triplett is an absolute hoot! The kids love the hands-on activities, science and art projects, entertaining discussions, and her ability to light up a room when she teaches about different subjects. She really inspires a love of learning in kids. Younger students hate to "graduate" from her classes and move on to other teachers. Older students appreciate her sharp wit and the way she makes classes relevant.

### **Annette Graves:**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math, Transitional Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II**

About Mrs. Graves:

Mrs. Graves is a native Houstonian. She has degrees in education, with an emphasis on math, from the University of Houston & the University of St. Thomas. She is the married mother of 4 and has taught at Home Ed Plus for 15 years.

A Parent's Perspective:

Mrs. Graves' intimate knowledge of math (at all levels) gives her the ability to assess exactly where a student is and place them in the class that will build on what they know. With so many years of experience as well as training as a reading specialist, she knows how to handle any student. Whether a student loves math so much they can't get enough or doesn't think they are even capable of learning it, she has a unique ability to inspire them to reach the next level.

**Adele Ownby:**

**5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing and Literature, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Writing and Literature, High School World Literature and Composition, Elementary Grammar Boot Camp, Worship Dance**

**About Mrs. Ownby:**

I have a B.A. in English from Rice University and a M.A. in Humanities and Modern Dance from UH/CLC. My husband and I have lived in Houston for over 40 years, and for 17 years I home schooled at least one of our four children. This will be my 16<sup>th</sup> year to teach writing and literature at HEP. I have been a Christian since I was 12, and I continue to be very excited about serving Jesus as an active part of the home school community.

**A Parent's Perspective:**

Most students agree that her classes can be hard the first year, but parents are shocked to find that their kids will do the work because they WANT to. She inspires them to have confidence and do their best. With a goal of preparing kids for college writing, her classes include vocabulary, literature, writing assignments, a four to six week intensive on research papers, creative writing, poetry memorization, and a focus on the attributes of God. Sound hard? Maybe, but the kids keep coming back year after year.

**Karen Maynard:**

**Elementary, Junior High, and High School level World History & Geography classes**

**About Mrs. Maynard:**

I live in the city of Bellaire where I have raised my 2 wonderful children. I have homeschooled both of them, and they attended Home Ed Plus. My oldest graduated from Texas Tech University with a Master in Forensic Science and my youngest is Senior at Texas Tech majoring in International Economics and Russian. I have a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing with an emphasis on Management. The last 12 ½ years I have spent administering the Home Ed Plus program. Prior to that, I worked for EDS as a manager of large data processing systems for Continental Airlines. I have always had a passion for History and have been a member of the genealogical society, Daughters of the American Revolution, for the past 25 years. My children have participated in the Children of the American Revolution for 14 years where we have spent much time researching various aspects of American History and their personal genealogy. I love working with them on these projects and showing them how their ancestors have impacted our current world. I have been a member of Trinity Lutheran Church for more than 20 years and have been a Sunday School Teacher there for about 15 years. I love sharing Jesus with the Children.

**A Parent's Perspective:**

My students enjoy the way Mrs. Maynard presents material in multiple ways, from hands-on projects, to class discussions, to traditional "lectures" where they can both hear the information being taught as well as copy notes from the board. She is careful to cover the material needed without overloading the students in class. Her passion for history helps keep history alive and interesting.

**Kari Arnold:**

**IPC, Biology**

**About Mrs. Arnold:**

This will be my 10<sup>th</sup> year with Home Ed Plus and I am very excited for the opportunity to share my enthusiasm for science with the next generation. I have a B.S in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from the University of Houston. I have provided tutoring services for various math and science courses at the high school and college level and worked as a teacher's assistant with religious studies courses at the University of Houston. I live with my husband and 4 children in southwest Houston. We attend a church near our home and are both involved in discipleship ministry. I believe God to be the author and creator of life and that studying His creation as a scientist is an awesome blessing.

#### A Parent's Perspective:

If your students love science, they will thrive in her classes. She loves everything science and is excited to share God's creation with the kids. Mrs. Arnold prepares students for college-level classes by teaching them how to outline chapters, complete labs, and prepare for exams. She explains concepts well, but also encourages students to be independent learners who can draw the needed information out of the textbook. Students are often amazed at their own success at the end of a school year with her.

#### **Lilly Kruut:**

##### **Junior High (Apologia) General Science, Elementary Spanish, Spanish 1**

#### About Mrs. Kruut:

Born in Colombia, South America, I have been married for 26 years, and have 4 children, ages 12 to 20. I have homeschooled all my kids beginning about 4<sup>th</sup> grade and seen the Lord do wonderful things in their lives. I have a degree as a paralegal, but once God blessed us with kids, we decided that being at home with our kids was very important. I quickly discovered how much I enjoyed teaching the kids, and other parents began asking for my help to teach their kids. Soon I was tutoring kids in both elementary and high school, and then moved to classrooms. I taught Spanish as an enrichment class after school at my children's private school and then started teaching high school Spanish and science to homeschool families through classes and co-ops like STAR. I also teach science classes via Facetime. I have been a Christian since I was 13, and I have enjoyed walking with the Lord since then. I have worked with Children's Ministries at the different churches I have attended, working in the nursery as well as helping in VBS, teaching Sunday school, etc. I am very excited for the opportunity to work with your children this year!

#### Our Perspective:

In our interviews with Mrs. Kruut, we were impressed with the various ways she plans to help kids both love and remember the Spanish language. She understands how much they can learn at different ages. Likewise, we appreciated her focus on teaching science students to take notes in class, prepare good labs, and discern which information is important in a chapter. We love the fact that her focus is on helping kids retain information for a lifetime.

### **Electives Class Instructors**

#### **Joe Kapusta:**

##### **Piano Instructor**

#### About Mr. Kapusta:

Mr. Kapusta is originally from Atlantic City, New Jersey and currently resides in Bellaire. He began his studies with Ms. Ann Ray and later continued with Ms. Martha Mihich. Joseph graduated and received a Bachelor of Music Degree from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. Over the years after graduation, he studied with Dr. Norris, former Piano Department Head at Rice University, Mr. Brownlee at the University of Houston, and Mr. Michael Lowe, former Conductor and Artistic Director of the Houston Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Kapusta has given private piano instruction since 1976, previously taught for St. Mark Conservatory for 10 years and has taught at Trinity Lutheran Conservatory for 7 years. He has performed classical, sacred and popular music at numerous locations throughout New Jersey and Texas. He also taught classroom music for four years at Bethany Lutheran School and has been providing piano accompaniment for choir and congregation at Bethany Lutheran Church for the past 17 years.

#### A Parent's Perspective:

Having given private lessons for so long, Mr. Kapusta knows exactly what each student needs to move to the next level. He is patient and inspires students to find their own creativity while honing a learnable skill. Our kids love to take piano with him and rave about how much they learn each week!

**Coach Bennett Murff:**  
**Elementary Intro to Team Sports, High School Intro to Team Sports**

About Coach Murff:

I will be beginning my first year with HEP! I am currently the Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach at Logos Preparatory Academy in Sugar Land. I believe that team sports offer not only the opportunity to compete, but also the opportunity to grow the character of young people. Through the world of athletics, things such as effort, commitment, perseverance, and learning to be a good teammate are developed. I have been married to my wife, Dede, for 26 years and we have 5 children, and 1 grandson. We attend and are active at The Sanctuary Fellowship in Richmond, TX.

Our Perspective:

Coach Murff is a wonderful coach who takes time to teach kids not only the rules of the game but also the skills required to play. Whether he is gently instructing a brand-new player or helping raise an experienced one to the next level of game play, he is perfectly qualified to teach our Intro to Sports class, which covers five different sports over the course of a year. We look forward to seeing how elementary through high school students will be impacted by his emphasis on values.

**Betsy Farr:**  
**Intro to Robotics**

About Betsy Farr:

I am a native of Dallas and have a BA in Political Science from Texas A&M University. Together with my husband, I have 2 older daughters and a son, Jack, who has attended HEP since kindergarten. Our family has a passion for missionary work with Respire Haiti and we are members of Ecclesia Houston, a non-denominational church in Houston's First Ward, just down the street from Home Ed Plus.

Our Perspective:

Betsy Farr is both the new administrator for Home Ed Plus and a homeschool veteran. A dynamic and fun person to be around, she has proven her love for innovation by bringing the school's registration online and streamlining several processes. She looks forward to carrying her son's robotics hobby into the classroom with other students.