

## Meet Our Fantastic LCHA Teachers!

- **Arfaras Kerr, Nicole:** Nicole homeschooled her daughters for thirteen years. Nicole has previously taught Latin, Astronomy, Archaeology, Odyssey of the Mind, Sleuth, JJ DID TIE BUCKLE, Meet the Mentors, Princess Warrior, American Government, Economics, Entrepreneurship, World History, Apologetics, American History, Mock Trial, and Speech & Debate in a co-op setting. She earned an A.A. degree from SPJC, and a B.A., M.A., and J.D. from the University of Florida.

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- **Belknap, Brad:** Head Coach Brad Belknap has over 20 years experience working with children in athletics. He is a certified tennis professional through USPTA and was a high ranked junior USTA player. He founded a Private School Program that currently serves 15 schools.

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- **Carney, Janet:** With over 40 years of teaching experience, I have been as an academic coach and classroom teacher, working with students from kindergarten through college. As a master teacher I have trained teachers and given lectures to faculty at various schools and churches. Additionally I have been a guest speaker on television, radio, and keynote speaker at educational events.

My mission is to build the spirit of the child, empowering students with the knowledge and discipline to study and learn effectively. Drawing on my experience as a student, parent, and teacher, I have developed a study course I currently teach: *The Tools of Learning*.

Teaching is my passion and life long career.

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- **Conrad, Jason:** Coming soon!

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- **Craig, Bianca:** From attending teas and socials with her grandmother, an etiquette instructor and mentor herself, Ms. Craig gained a deep love of etiquette and all that comes along with it. When not watching vintage films and listening to music, Ms. Craig loves to embrace her geek glamour. She uses her experience in art, fashion and of course etiquette, to inspire and create an entertaining and memorable learning environment for her students.

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- **Cremona, Aaron:** I have played guitar for 7 years and have been a member of the LCHA Praise Band for the last 6 school years. I have lead worship at LCHA's morning chapel, Hope For The Children Ministries, and at various church camps. I taught guitar this past year and coordinated musical LCHA events. For 3 years I played in a Christian band with friends, called Under His Wings. I currently play acoustic, electric, and bass in the youth ministry band at Calvary Church and have for the past 4 years. I am still learning more each day through experiences and private lessons. I have a constant drive to worship and to help others around me worship and experience God through their daily lives, so that one day they can lead others in worship too.

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- **Constantine, Elizabeth:** Elizabeth Constantine began Highland Dancing at the age of 8. She has performed and competed in Highland Dance in the United States, Europe and Asia. Ten years ago Elizabeth became a certified instructor with the British Association of Teachers of Dancing. Most recently, she has performed with the Walt Disney Company at their resorts in Tokyo, Japan and Hong Kong, China. She continues to perform at events such as the Dunedin Highland Games and the Virginia International Tattoo. Elizabeth's dancers can look forward to developing friendships while preparing for performances and competitions."

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- **Grame, Constantine:** Constantine Grame studied music with his father, Theodore Grame, and holds an Advanced Certificate in Piano from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London. He is Artistic Director of the New Century Opera and Music Director of the Gilbert and Sullivan Players (Clearwater). In recent years he has served as stage and musical director for "Carmen," "La clemenza di Tito," "Mefistofele," "Die Entführung aus dem Serail," "La serva padrona," "Orfeo ed Euridice", all four operas of Wagner's "Ring Cycle," "Hänsel und Gretel" and "Babes in Toyland." His edition of the original Herbert/MacDonough text of "Babes in Toyland" has been recognized as the most authoritative version available today, and Mr. Grame is currently preparing the first printed orchestral score and parts from the original manuscripts. As music director he has directed "Tosca," "HMS Pinafore," "Utopia, Limited," and many other works. As piano accompanist he has accompanied such distinguished artists as Sherrill Milnes, Maria Zouves, Stella Zambalis, Carole Cook, and Enrico di Giuseppe. He has appeared as tenor soloist in such works as "Il barbiere di Siviglia" and "The Mikado." He is an accompanist/voice coach and serves on the faculty of the Marcia P. Hoffman Institute for the Performing Arts (Ruth Eckerd Hall). He serves as organist at First Church of Christ, Scientist, St. Petersburg. Mr. Grame's own opera, "The Spoiler," premiered in Tarpon Springs in 2004 and was revived there in 2008 and 2012.

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- **Hanafee, Heather:** Heather is a Purdue graduate with a BA with Honors in Psychology and Sociology and a MA in Health Promotion. Heather has homeschooled her three children from birth through high school. Her oldest, a twenty-four year old, is currently in graduate school working on her Doctorate in Psychology, her second child is a twenty years old college undergrad and she also has a 10 year old son who she is actively homeschooling. Prior to moving to Florida in the Fall of 2016, Heather taught for over 11 years at her former homeschool co-op in Western Wisconsin, as well as having past employment as the Children's Ministry Coordinator at her church. Heather also has experience with operating an in-home child care. Heather has a heart for God and is passionate about the care and education of all His children.

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- **Harman, Maryann "Mar.":** Maryann "Mar." Harman is a music educator with a Bachelor's Degree in Music and a Master's in Education, with an emphasis in Early Childhood and is certified in Level I Orff. These degrees contribute to her ability to write songs that are musically and educationally sound for children as well as fun and easy to use for teachers and parents. She is the founder of the internationally-enjoyed Music with Mar. Brain Research Based program, Music with Mar. International (Beijing, China) and hosted BAM! Radio Music and Learning Channel.

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- **Kellum, Nako:** Coming soon!

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- **Knuth, Kelly:** I have been homeschooling my 3 children for the last 9 years. I have a degree in children's ministry, have taught Sunday School, children's choir, and in various homeschool groups including Classical Conversations, Unfailing Homeschoolers, Grace Academic Co-op and Westbank Homeschool Org., in Jacksonville, New Orleans and Tampa, since 1999. I love learning and passing that love on to others, whatever the subject.

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- **Laccabue, Michele:** While Michele homeschooled her boys for 9 years, she has enjoyed sharing her love of science by teaching to students of all grade levels, in the co-op setting, for the past 12 years. She earned a B.S. degree in Medical Technology from USF, has 10 years experience as a Microbiologist in a large hospital, and 2 years as an Infection Control Practitioner.

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- **McBride, Rachel:** Rachel McBride is an experienced teacher and homeschool graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with cognates in

Natural Science, Social Sciences, and Family and Consumer Sciences, and a minor in Creation Studies from Liberty University. She recently graduated from The Spanish Language Institute in Costa Rica, and is currently working on a Master's degree in Christian Education and Apologetics through the Institute for Creation Research. Her desire is to see Christian young people become grounded in their faith in God (Eccl. 12:1). She has over 6 years of teaching experience at a variety of grade levels, and recently returned to the United States after living for nearly two years in Latin America (8 months teaching in Chile and 14 months studying Spanish in Costa Rica).

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- **McBride, Rebecca:** Rebecca McBride is a veteran homeschooling mom, who has her Bachelor's degree from Houghton College in Western NY. She has double majors (Elementary Education and Psychology), and double minors (Early Childhood Education and French) from there. She has taken post-grad. education courses and also, completed numerous certificate courses from several Universities, receiving certificates in Nutrition and in TESL. She was a high school exchange student to Japan, and later, her family hosted several exchange students from different countries. After college, she was commissioned in the Army Reserves after completing Army ROTC (to help pay her college tuition). While on active duty, she met and married a career military man. They have 2 children (both teachers now), that she homeschooled from K-12th grade (1991-2004). She co-founded the first organized homeschooling support group (with over 75 families) in Leavenworth, KS and Ft. Lvn, while her children were still toddlers (1987). In 2008, she co-founded, and was a teacher and the director of Pilgrim's Progress Academy in East Texas. Rebecca has taught students for over 35 years, beginning her teaching experience in the public school. She has taught in Christian schools in Texas and KY, preschools, homeschool coops, and in international private schools in Seoul, Korea, Monterrey, Mexico and Santiago, Chile. Although her degree was originally in Elementary Education, over the years, she has taught many students from every grade level. Rebecca has travelled extensively, and lived in 7 different countries. She and her family recently moved to Florida from Costa Rica where they had been living for 14 months. While there, she took a trimester of Spanish at the missionary language school to improve her Spanish. Since moving to FL, she spends a lot of her time teaching ESL students.

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- **Milillo, Charlene:** Charlene Milillo is the mother of four boys. Her two oldest have graduated from USF and are pursuing their career goals. She has been homeschooling her younger twin sons, who have autism, since 2010. She was an assistant Montessori teacher for 12+ years working with toddlers through third grade. Charlene has also volunteered in many different classes and with several different sports teams with ages from pre-school through high school in a variety of settings.

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- **Nilsen, Marta:** Some of you know me and some of you don't, so here is a little info on me and my family! I am happily married with 3 daughters ages 9, 4 and 3. I am a professional figure skating instructor by trade but work very part time since having a family. I knew that if I ever had children, I wanted to homeschool. Over the course of 25 years of teaching children to skate, I knew many homeschool families and admired their relationships. I am learning more with each year of homeschooling and look forward to meeting new friends with whom to share this journey. I have a BA in Communication Disorders from the University of Kentucky.

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- **Owens, John Patrick:** This will be the Owens family's 10th year at LCHA. John is an HS Junior and is dual enrolled at SPC. John has a long history with Legos and Robotics. John started participating in Robotics competitions when he was 9 years old, and as part of three different robotics competition teams has won the division Best Sportsmanship and 1st Place in the State of Florida every time. In 2015-2016, as part of a two-man team, John won Best Sportsmanship and 1st Place in the Florida World Robotic Olympiad and 7th Place in the USA National World Robotic Olympiad (WOR) for the Regular/Game Jr. High School division. When not doing school or Robotics, he enjoys Scouts, volunteering, and performing in Community Theater.

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- **Owens, Marylee:** This will be the Owens family's 10th year at LCHA, and 9th year teaching in a Christian homeschool co-op settings. Marylee has taught World History, Robotics, Computer Science and misc. science classes at LCHA. Mark and Marylee have been married 34 years and have one son whom they have homeschooled since birth. Marylee has a B.S.in Computer Science from UCF and Master of Science coursework from the University of Houston, with over 20 years of hands-on real-world experience as a programmer, software engineer, tech lead, database analyst/administrator, systems specialist, and manager developing and deploying massive data warehouses, real-time high-speed processing systems, and Mission Critical Systems for the aerospace, airline, pharmaceutical, utility, and financial industries. Marylee has taught classes for adults at NASA, IBM, PWC etc. in corporate settings, as well students in home school co-op settings. She has coached three Lego robotics teams, all of which won 1st place in their Florida State Divisions, two of which went on to place in National or World Competitions. Mark, is a Senior Software Engineer with over 20 years in Object Oriented programming and design using C++/Java, with hands-on experience in the development and implementation of operating, database and artificial intelligence systems as well as custom and proprietary aerospace, business, utility, medical, and government applications. Mark has a BS in Chemistry from UCF with Master work in Organic Chemistry at UCF and Computer Science at the University of Houston.

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- **Perez, Brandi:** My name is Brandi Perez. I am a certified K-6 Elementary teacher as well as PE certified K-12. I graduated from Saint Leo University in 2009. I taught 2nd grade in the public school system as well as 2nd and 3rd grade online for the public schools. I also was a PE instructor, Lifestyles in Health and Fitness, and Outdoors Education instructor with NEFECC through FLVS. I have been a homeschool mom for 14 years plus. My husband and I were Children's Pastors for 7 years. I have 3 plus years of Bible college and a lifetime to go to continue to learn and grow more in our Lord Jesus. I have been happily married to the man of my dreams for 19 years and counting. We have been blessed with 2 amazing children.

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- **Perez, Kennedi:** My name is Kennedi Perez. I was a homeschool student all my life and am currently in my senior year as a Studio Art Major with a focus in Illustration and Design at USF. Art is my life. I do it at school, I do it at home, and when I have no paper I draw on my hand. I believe every person is artistic. I love teaching people how to discover their inner artist. After all, "Earth" without "art" is just "eh".

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- **Polo, Junior:** Junior Polo was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Since the age 5, Polo has been following the best Haitian painters in their respective disciplines. He has since developed his love and passion for art through painting, pottery and stage design. Polo later found his inspiration for helping youth by working with disabled children at Saint Vincent Center in Haiti. This experience changed his life and he began to develop a plan to start a youth empowerment non-profit organization called GREDEVE (Network Empowerment for Child Development). In its 20th year, the organization teaches at-risk and underserved youth in the areas of leadership, art, literacy and personal development. GREDEVE now serves over 300 youth and hosts many community building activities and performances each year. Now residing in Tampa Bay, Polo has pursued his passion for serving his community by creating a local youth arts initiative, VeroPolo Kids Space. He also teaches art classes for the Prodigy Cultural Arts Program. Through both programs, Polo shares valuable art techniques and life skills with young people through out the Bay Area. Polo's inspiration draws upon his life experiences and the recent earthquake disaster in Haiti. He believes art can be used as therapy for anyone searching for healing. Junior Polo's art is featured in several art galleries and installations in the Tampa Bay area and a portion of his commissions are sent back to help fund and support GREDEVE.

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- **Rosado, Darlene:** Darlene is a very blessed wife & mother of three. She had the wonderful opportunity of homeschooling her children for 6 years. As a youth, she studied dance at the former studio "The Dance Workshop" under the direction of

Gloria Tyndall and became one of her assistant teachers. While studying dance, she had a growing desire to use her gift of dance for God. She began choreographing dances & “human video” presentations for First Baptist Church of Holiday as a youth. She is now the Dance Ministry leader at West Coast Word Church in Tarpon Springs, FL & has had the pleasure of teaching worship dance classes & workshops there as well. She was also honored to complete 3 choreography projects for Real Life Church's “Real Life Girlfriends” annual Retreat. In 2015, she was brought on staff at The Forte School of Fine Arts in New Port Richey to teach Worship Dance to adults. In 2016, she began teaching Worship Dance Ministry Training classes for children and youth at her home church, West Coast Word Church. She has continued her studies along with her daughter Abigail at Affirmation Ballet & Performing Arts Center in Pinellas Park, FL. This will be her fifth year teaching at LCHA. She loves to dance for the Lord with her whole heart & is honored to be one of many that God has chosen to teach others how to worship God with their gift of dance.

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- **Safransky, Stephanie:** Stephany Safransky is a proud homeschooling mom of a beautiful, well-rounded, twelve year old daughter. Stephany has her B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of South Florida, and has taught in some capacity for the past 20 years. When asked, "What is an engineer?" the most common response is, “They build bridges.” Stephany Safransky will help your student discover that through creating, problem solving, and thinking outside the box in engineering, bridges are just the beginning...

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- **Schultz, Candi:** Candi Schultz is a stay-at-home mom that has had the privilege of homeschooling her three children since their pre-school years. She has been married to her husband for twenty-two years, and is very thankful to partner with him in raising their kids up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. She has worked in both a private school and a public charter school setting. She has also has taught various homeschool co-ops and Sunday school classes. She has her Pre-primary teaching credential and her Bachelor of Science in Accountancy. This is her fourth-year teaching and serving on the board at LCHA. She has loved bringing the Mr. D Math curriculum to Lighthouse. It has been exciting watching students thrive through the program.

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- **Self, Liudmila:** Liudmila Self has 16 years experience in teaching and 21 years experience in video production. Mrs. Self is from Bucharest, Romania, where she studied and received her BA in Russian and English Language and Literature. Following a career in television as an investigative journalist and documentary filmmaker, she moved to London, United Kingdom, where she received her MA in Audio Visual Production from London Guildhall University.

She also received her post-graduate teaching certificate from Institute of Education, University of London before teaching Film and Media at City of Westminster College in London. She received Waldorf teacher training at Sunbridge Institute in New York and at the Steiner College in Sacramento.

Mrs. Self has taught film production at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She has also organized film camps at Suncoast Waldorf School while she taught there as class teacher grades 1, 4 and 5. Mrs Self also taught middle school grades at Alabama Waldorf School.

She speaks Russian and Romanian as a native speaker. She is an award winning documentary filmmaker (Romanian National Television Award) and has interests in environmental concerns, marine and general wildlife, and ice-skating (as a child, she trained for the Romanian National Figure Skating team).

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- **Skidd, Lisa:** I began my teaching career in the public school system in 1995. I taught for 6 1/2 years Middle School and Elementary Aged students. Once our first daughter was born, I took a leave of absence and soon discovered that God was leading us to homeschool.. We began home schooling from the beginning. We have learned so much along our journey. I have taught at a few co-op's an array of classes including a variety of IEW Writing Curriculum's, World Geography, R.E.A.L. Chemistry, Elementary Physics, and Apologia Astronomy. IEW has always been one of my favorites. The curriculum develops writers in an exciting way. I am always amazed from where the students began the year to their papers at the end of the year. I have one child in college at the University of Florida, one in 10th, and one in 8th grade this year. Home schooling has been a true blessing for our family and we couldn't have had the success without the support of our co-op's.

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- **Whiddon, Michele:** Michele is a wife and a mother of one beautiful and energetic young lady. Michele has homeschooled her daughter from the start and loves the freedom homeschooling provides to explore and run down those rabbit holes! Her family has been a member of LCHA for over 5 years and as volunteered in several classes as well as the LCHA Board. Michele is excited to share with your child God's most magnificent creation, the human body and its systems.

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- **Williams, Kurt:** Kurt Williams is a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Karate, Tae Kwon Do and Tang Soo Do, as well as a 1st degree Black Belt in Kickboxing. He has over 14 years of Martial Arts experience with training in Jiu Jitsu, Kickboxing, Weapons, Self Defense and Tournaments. He is continually training and teaching Martial Arts and Christian character with his focus on Jesus and the safety of his students. Inscribed on his Black Belt is: "And whatever you do, in

word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17.

\*He is also CPR certified and First Aid certified.

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- **Williams, Steven:** Steven Williams has been playing music for 10 years. He started with piano at age 5 and then added drums and ukulele. He reads music and plays drums in a local Christian band called Under His Wings, with his brother, who is a bass player. He also plays drums for his church youth worship band. He has played for the Lighthouse Christian praise band and began teaching at Lighthouse in 2018. He also teaches the Self Defense/Martial Arts class with his siblings. Steven loves the drums and is looking forward to sharing what he knows with his students.

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- **Zamora, Chris:** My name is Chris Zamora. I graduated Trinity College of Florida with a bachelor's degree in Clinical Counseling and a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies. Prior to graduating I attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University studying music theory, musical performance, choir and music therapy. Playing praise and worship has been a passion of mine since I was 14. I began playing in worship bands and have continued doing so to this day. I currently help lead and play worship at Gulfview Grace Brethren Church and play the drums for Gethsemane. I have experience teaching new and experienced musicians in drums, bass, keyboard and guitar. I plan to give your child the guidance that my youth pastor gave me that still motivates me to play music for God.

Our Heavenly Father has put in our hearts the burning desire to teach the young and old the art of praise and worship that touches the heart of the Father. In our times of reaching out to Him, He takes us well beyond the veil, in deep and intimate worship. When a child of God takes up an instrument, a banner, a flag, or dances before the Father, something so incredible happens. We become one with that instrument of worship, and that instrument turns into a voice of communication, a sword, a flame of fire, a white burning torch that ascends to the heavens and the heavens respond with angels walking up and down, watching, listening, to the sounds that first came into the children from the Father, The Creator, God. They are Echoes From Heaven, the music that compels the angels to dance, that compels us to join in and celebrate the life that is in Jesus, Y'shua our Messiah. It is for His name's sake!

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- **Zamora, Sarah:** Sarah Zamora graduated from Trinity College of Florida in 2012 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and began teaching at Grace Christian School in the fall of 2012. I taught there for four years before deciding to resign my position as the first grade teacher to stay at home with my son after

he was born in January of 2016. I have ten plus years experience teaching Sunday school classes and I have been working with kids in children's ministries since I was a teenager. I have recently come on staff at Gulf View Grace Church as their children's director of religious education and I am now overseeing the VBS program there as well. I have experience teaching middle school as well and physical education classes. I have taught in other homeschool co-ops throughout my life teaching P.E., gymnastics, dance, basketball, and guitar. I love teaching with an interactive and hands on approach that allows the students to have real life experiences that make learning more memorable.

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