

Croft Middle Design Center Teacher and Staff Bios

Name: Catherine Allanson

Position: 8<sup>th</sup> grade Intervention/Inclusive Services

Years in Education: 29

Years at Croft: 9

Tennessee Schools: Oak View, Chapman's Retreat, and Hunters Bend Elementary (Williamson County), Freedom Intermediate (Franklin SSD), Currey Ingram Academy, Croft Middle Design Center. Prior to moving to Tennessee, I taught in Los Angeles and St. Louis.

Education: University of Missouri-St. Louis (BA), California State University-Los Angeles (MS)

Family: husband- Tom Finegan; daughter-Alissa, son-Connor and dog-Cookie

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 326 (Office);

E-mail: [Catherine.allanson@mnps.org](mailto:Catherine.allanson@mnps.org)

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Name: Charity Allen

Position: Special Education Teacher

Years in Education: 12 years

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Crieve Hall Elementary (Nashville, TN), Shayne Elementary (Nashville, TN), Croft Design Middle Prep (Nashville, TN)

Education: Tennessee State University (Master of Special Education K-12), Vanderbilt University (ELL Endorsement)

Family: Husband: Deon; Children: Pais'leigh (4)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 225 (school)

E-mail: [charity.blair@mnps.org](mailto:charity.blair@mnps.org)

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Name: Jennifer Anderson

Position: Advanced Academics Resource Teacher

Years in Education: 9

Years at Croft: 3

Schools: Exceptional Education Teacher at T.W. Hunter Middle in Sumner County; Itinerant Encore Teacher at: Donelson Middle, DuPont Hadley Middle, Apollo Middle, McMurray Middle, Margaret Allen Middle, Wright Middle, Rose Park Math and Science Magnet, and Croft Design Center in MNPS

Education: University of Tennessee, Knoxville (BS), Tennessee State University (MEd)

Family: Husband- John; Pups- Ozy and Stella

Phone: 615-332-0217

E-mail: [jennifer.anderson@mnps.org](mailto:jennifer.anderson@mnps.org)

Twitter: @mnpsencore

Facebook: mnpsencore

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Name: Abby Ashford-Grooms

Position: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher, Cambridge Coordinator

Years in Education: 11

Years at Croft: This is my first year, and I'm so excited to be here!

Schools: Manor High School (Manor, TX), Georgetown High School (Georgetown, TX), The Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders (Austin, TX), Martin Luther King, Jr. Magnet High School (MNPS), Croft Middle Design Center

Education: The University of Iowa (BA), The University of Texas (M.Ed.), Texas State University (MFA)

Family: Partner: Celestino; Canine Children: Tobias (11), Sabine (7), and Pearl (1)

Phone: 615-812-1482

E-mail: [Abigail.Ashford-Grooms@mnps.org](mailto:Abigail.Ashford-Grooms@mnps.org)

Twitter: @MsAtotheG

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Name: Kimberly Ashton

Position: Social Studies Teacher

Years in Education: 4

Years at Croft: 3

Born in the District of Columbia and raised in Michigan. I have lived in Tennessee for 15 years and I have one son, Nicholas (16).

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 262 (Office);

E-mail: Kimberly.ashton@mnps.org

Twitter: @6thCroft

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Name: Jon Auld, M.A.T.

Position: ELL Lead & 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELL

Years in Education: 17

Years at Croft: 6

Schools: Schools in Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Venezuela; Croft Middle School.

Education: University of Plymouth, U.K. (B.Sc. Hons), Trevecca Nazarene University (M.A.T.), Bethel University (Admin License).

Family: Wife: Sara; Children: Anna (4), Alex (born August 2017)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 226;

E-mail: jonathan.auld@mnps.org

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Stephanie Austin, M.S., CF-SLP

Position: Speech-Language Pathologist

Years in Education: 1

Years at Croft: 1st Year!

Education: Tennessee State University (B.S. and M.S.)

Family: Parents, one big sister, and a dog named Frisky

Phone: (615)332-0217 ext. 338

E-mail: [Stephanie.Austin@mnps.org](mailto:Stephanie.Austin@mnps.org)

Ms. Stephanie Austin is a recent graduate from Tennessee State University with her Masters focused in Speech-Language Pathology. She has chosen to begin her career as a school-based speech-language pathologist with Metro Nashville Public Schools and at Croft Design Middle Prep. Ms. Austin has a demonstrated history of working in the education and medical industry with over 400 clinical clock hours of experience. Previous speech pathology clinical practicum experiences and coursework have provided her adequate training with preschool to geriatric populations with varying degrees of disorders and impairments. Ms. Austin considers therapy in Language and Articulation disorders, Cognitive-Linguistic, as well as, Alternative and Augmentative Communication to be her strengths. Her philosophy on education and communication is that effective communication is a key factor for children to develop their full potential in order to navigate both the academic and social arenas of school. In addition, she firmly believes that collaboration with parents and school professionals is crucial for the generalization and mastery of new skills within different contexts. She looks forward to all of the special memories that she'll gain this year at Croft. Go Cougars!

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Name: Sarah Baker

Position: Zoology teacher - STEAM

Years in Education: 22

Schools: Croft; Antioch High School; MNPS Curriculum office

Education: B.S. Biology, Lipscomb; M.Ed. Administration and Supervision, Lipscomb

Family: Married, 3 children, 5 grandchildren (+ one on the way)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext.146 ; E-mail: [sarah.baker@mnps.org](mailto:sarah.baker@mnps.org)

Twitter: @CroftZoology

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Name: Carolyn Bonde

Position: Media Specialist

Years in Education: 7

Years at Croft: 1

Schools: Park Avenue Enhanced Option, Granbery Elementary School, Engleburg Elementary (Milwaukee) Caldwell Enhanced Option, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Vanderbilt University (BS, MED), Trevecca Nazarene University (LIS endorsement)

Family: Husband: Brad; Children: Bailey (9), and Crosby (8)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext.408 (Library)

E-mail: [Carolyn.bonde@mnps.org](mailto:Carolyn.bonde@mnps.org)

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Name: Tammy Bowers

Position: Sixth Grade Science

Years in education: 8

Years at Croft: 7

Schools: Woodbury Grammar School, and Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Middle Tennessee State University

Family: Husband: Jason; Children: Victoria(13), Madison(12), and Copeland(7)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext 263

Email: [Tammy.bowers@mnps.org](mailto:Tammy.bowers@mnps.org)

Twitter: @6thCroft

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Name: Tara Colwart

Position: 7th Grade Science

Years in Education: 18

Years at Croft: 11

Schools: McMurray Middle School and Croft Middle School

Education: Union University, Jackson, TN (BS in Elementary Education, focus grades 5-8)

Family: Husband: Donald Colwart Jr. (DJ), Hezekiah (Kiah) age 9 Siblings: Tracy (twin) and Kenneth

Phone: 615-332-0217 x. 311 (classroom phone)

Email: tara.colwart@mnps.org

About Me: I am from Nashville. I grew up in Crieve Hall, and am a graduate of John Overton High School. I love teaching. It's the best job there is. I really love teaching science. I believe all children can learn, and strive to make my class rigorous, creative, fun, and relevant. I love Fall, and Winter, and I love the outdoors. One of my hobbies is going to caves, and touring them. I also love college football. Go Vols!

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I am Deborah Davis, 5<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher. I have been teaching for 13 years and have been at Croft for 7. I received my bachelor's degree from Belmont University and my Master's degree in teaching from Trevecca University. I always wanted to be a teacher, but I even more love getting to know the students and teaching them about inquiry and seeing the lights go off in their eyes when they discover something new. I am also the i3Grow Stem lead teacher for the second year here at Croft. I help with the FCA club and I am the sponsor for the First Priority Club.

I am married and have 3 children, Nick(27) who is a manager with Wal-Mart, John(24) who is in law school at the University of Memphis, and Katie(17) who is a senior at Nashville School of the Arts in the orchestra conservatory.

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

[Deborah.davis@mnps.org](mailto:Deborah.davis@mnps.org)

615-332-0217 ext.233

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Name: Amy D'Angelo

Position: Exceptional Educator

Years in Education: 28 years

Years at Croft: 13

Schools: Stephen Foster Elementary (Ft. Lauderdale, FL), Middleberg Elementary (New York), Apollo Middle, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Marietta College (BA), Walden University (MS)

Family: Husband: Tom; Children: Annalise(7)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 325 (school)

E-mail: amy.dangelo@mnps.org

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Name: Rose Diauto

Position: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies Teacher

Years in Education: 3

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Joelton Middle School, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Aquinas College (Bachelor's of Science in English), Lipscomb University (ELL Endorsement, and current Master's student)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 327

E-mail: rose.diauto@mnps.org

Twitter: @RoseDiauto

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Name: Katherine Thompson Dibb

Position: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and Social Studies

Years in Education: 2

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Middle Tennessee State University (BA)

Family: Husband: Andrew Pets: 1 Cat named Gambino

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 265

E-mail: katherine.thompson@mnps.org

Twitter: @katherinethomps or @6thCroft

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Name: Betty Lynn Dozier

Position: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics

Years in Education: 24 years

Years at Croft: 3 years

Schools: West Sparta Elementary, Morningside School (Hopkinsville, Ky.), Lakeview School (Wilson County), Overbrook School (Nashville), Bellevue Middle School (Nashville), Croft Design Center

Education: Tennessee Tech University (BA), Cumberland University (M.Ed.)

Family: 4 children: Brad, Ryan, Adam, Ashley

Phone: 615-332-0217 EXT: 230

E-mail: [betty.dozier@mnps.org](mailto:betty.dozier@mnps.org)

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Name: Letimicia S. Fears, Ph.D.

Position: Resident Scientist, Vanderbilt Postdoctoral Fellow

Years in Education: 4

Years at Croft: This is my first

Schools: Rose Park Math and Science Magnet and Isaac Litton Middle School, Tennessee State University

Education: Middle Tennessee State University (BS), Tennessee State University (MS and Ph.D)

Family: Partner - Craig; Kids - First one on the way!

E-mail: [letimicia.fears@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:letimicia.fears@vanderbilt.edu)

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Name: Angie Fitzpatrick

Position: Educational Interventionist Assistant

Years in Education: 10

Years at Croft: 9

Schools: Donelson Middle School, Croft Design Center Prep

Education: Nashville State Technical Community College/  
Visual Communications Graphic Design (AAS)



Family: Daughter: Alexis/Pets: Snakes (Ball Pythons & Hognose) Gecko (Crested)  
Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 325  
E-mail: [angie.fitzpatrick@mnps.org](mailto:angie.fitzpatrick@mnps.org)

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Name: Andrew Gallaher

Position: 7-8 Science Teacher

Years in Education: 2

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Croft Middle Design Center & John Overton High School

Education: Lipscomb University (BS)

Family: Wife: Chandelle

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 333 (Work) E-mail: [agallaher@mnps.org](mailto:agallaher@mnps.org)

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Name: Felmon Gardner

Position: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Years in Education: 18+ years

Years at Croft: 4

Schools: Brick Church Middle, Bailey STEM Magnet Middle, and Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Tennessee State University (BS), and (M.ed)

Family: Wife: Sandra Children: Daniel (4) and Elias (13) and Dog: Scarface (4)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 312 (school)

E-mail: [felmon.gardner@mnps.org](mailto:felmon.gardner@mnps.org)

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Name: Juliana Gangone

Position: Librarian

Years in Education: 20

Years at Croft: 10

Schools: Hillsboro High School, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Tennessee Tech (BA), Tennessee Tech (MS)

Family: Husband Chris, Daughter Alexis (10), Dog Daisy

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 408

E-mail: [Juliana.gangone@mnps.org](mailto:Juliana.gangone@mnps.org)

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Name: Katelyn Hadder

Position: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Exceptional Education Teacher

Years in Education: 2

Years at Croft: 1

Schools: Purpose Preparatory Academy, Croft Center Design Middle Prep

Education: University of Tennessee, Knoxville (BS), Lipscomb University (M.ED)

Family: Father: Steve Hadder, Mother: Adrienne Hadder, Dog: Livia

Phone: 615-332-0217

E-mail: Kahadder@mnps.org

Twitter: N/A

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Name: Crystalena Haney, PhD

Position: 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies

Years in Education: 14

Years at Croft: 4

Schools: Various schools in several states, Antioch Middle School, Croft

Education: Wesleyan University, Walden University, University of Tennessee

Family: Parents: Roy and Chris; Sisters: Heather and Wendy

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 310

E-mail: crystalena.haney@mnps.org

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Name: Stephanie Hethcox, EdD

Position: 5<sup>th</sup> grade science

Years in Education: 10

Years at Croft: 3

Schools: J.E. Moss Elementary School and Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Freed-Hardeman University (BBA), Lipscomb University (M.Ed.),  
Trevecca Nazarene University (EdD)

Family: Daughter: Francie (9)

Pet: Tuxie the cat (4)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 231 (classroom)

E-mail: [stephanie.hethcox@mnps.org](mailto:stephanie.hethcox@mnps.org)

From: Alabama – Huge Auburn football fan – War Eagle!!!!!!

Favorites:

Food: Publix fried chicken

Drink: grape Kool-Aid

Movie: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (original)

Song: “In Your Eyes” by Peter Gabriel

Can't live without: chap stick

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Name: Colin Hunt

Position: 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and SS

Years in Education: 4

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Creswell School of the Arts (Nashville); Croft Middle Design Center

Education: New York University (BFA); Lipscomb University (M.Ed. -Pending)

Family: Wife: Kari Edgens

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 332 (Office)

E-mail: [colin.hunt@mnps.org](mailto:colin.hunt@mnps.org)

Twitter: @mrmisterhunt

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Name: Brandy Kuhlman, M.Ed

Position: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA/SS Teacher

Years in Education: 15

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: MNPS: Isaac Litton Middle, Goodlettsville Middle, McMurray Middle, and Croft Design Center Prep

Education: Tennessee State University (BA), Nova Southeastern University (M.Ed)

Family: Husband: Max, Stepson: Zack, Dog: Carmie

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 307

E-mail: [Brandy.Kuhlman@mnps.org](mailto:Brandy.Kuhlman@mnps.org)

Twitters: @KoolKuhlman and @CroftProjectLit

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Name: Stephanie W. Lankford

Position: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science and Physical Science

Years in Education: 13

Years at Croft: 4

Schools: McMurray Middle Prep (Nashville), Croft Design Center Prep

Education: Tennessee State University (BA), Tennessee State University (MS)

Family: Husband: Tony; Children: Owen (10), and Wyatt (1)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 331

E-mail: [stephanie.lankford@mnps.org](mailto:stephanie.lankford@mnps.org)

Twitter: @ScienceNerdGrl

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Name: Anna Levy

Position: ELL Teacher for 6th and 8th Grade

Years in Education: 3

Years at Croft: 1

Schools:

Supervised MNPS Reading Clinics for struggling readers at Warner Elementary, Napier Elementary, Carter Lawrence Elementary, Hattie Cotton Elementary, Caldwell Elementary, Amqui Elementary, Kirkpatrick Elementary, Two Rivers Middle School, A.Z. Kelley, Tusculum Elementary, Glengarry Elementary and Inglewood Elementary; Student taught 3rd grade at Glengarry Elementary and 6th grade at West End Middle; I taught ESL in Bangkok, Thailand for a year. I worked in multiple public schools across Bangkok and the surrounding provinces.

Education: Skidmore College (BA), Lipscomb University (MEd)

Family: My parents, brother, and sister live in Memphis, TN. I live in Nashville with my cat, Moma, and three backyard chickens!

Email: [anna.levy@mnps.org](mailto:anna.levy@mnps.org)

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Name: Jeremy Lewis, EdD

Position: Principal

Years in Education: 11

Years at Croft: 4

Schools: Bellevue Middle School (Memphis), Bellevue Middle School (Nashville), Cane Ridge High School, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Middle Tennessee State University (BA), Christian Brothers University (MS), Trevecca Nazarene University (EdD)

Family: Wife: Rachel; Children: Keller (5), Hannah (3), and Elsie (3)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 205 (Office); 615-335-7835 (Mobile)

E-mail: [Jeremy.Lewis@mnps.org](mailto:Jeremy.Lewis@mnps.org)

Twitter: @drlewisCROFT

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Elizabeth Lybarger

CROFT Middle School

Subjects: Computer Science, STEAM

Education: Austin Peay University M.A.Ed; B.S. Mass Communications:

Broadcast/Theatre

*In 2008, I began teaching Theatre for an Arts Magnet School in Nashville. I trained students (5th-8th grade) in Technical Theatre, among other Production work. I was also our Forensics team Coach.*

*In 2010 I worked for Princeton, creating Praxis for National Theatre in Educational Testing Services, then went on to serve on TN State Committee in creating Standards for Theatre Arts.*

*I received Teacher of the Year Award for Creswell Arts in 2014.*

*I began Scratch coding in 2015 through Nashville Technology Council, where I found a passion in Computer Science, Design, and Digital Imagery.*

*In addition to teaching, I am married with two daughters and a son arriving by October.*

*I'm excited to be with the Croft family and look forward to cultivating our students' computer science skills.*

*Twitter: @croftzooschool*

*Go Cougars!!*

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**Name:** Jane Norris, M.Ed

**Position:** Physical Education Teacher

**Years in Education:** 17

**Years at Croft:** 14

**Schools:** Head Magnet Middle School, Croft Middle Design Center Prep

**Education:** Attended; University of Mississippi, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Gulf Coast Community College, Valencia Community College (A.A), University of Kentucky, University of Central Oklahoma (BA), Lipscomb University (M.Ed)

**Family:** Betty Norris (mother), Landy Norris (brother), and one wonderful dog named Hudson, a Malamute and Golden Retriever mix.

**Phone:** 615-332-0217 ext. 140 (Office)

**E-mail:** jane.norris@mnps.org

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Name: Kerry Olivares-Hansen, M.Ed

Position: EL Teacher

Years in Education: 6

Years at Croft: 2+

Schools: Azabu International School (Tokyo, Japan), Active Learning Center (Bellevue, TN) Croft Middle Design Center (Nashville, TN)

Education: Western Illinois University (BS), Lipscomb University (M. Ed), Lipscomb University (currently pursuing Ed.D)

Family: Husband: Danyvid; Children: Jesse (6); Stepchildren: Santiago (15), and Samantha (17)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 308 (School)

E-mail: [Kerry.hansen@mnps.org](mailto:Kerry.hansen@mnps.org)

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Name: Raquel Price

Position: Literacy Teacher Development Specialist

Years in Education: 6

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Hunter's Lane High School (9<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA); T.W. Hunter Middle School (7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA); Madison Middle School (Literacy Coach); Croft Middle School (8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA; Current LTDS)

Education: Vanderbilt University (B.S. in Secondary Education and English); Vanderbilt University (M.Ed. in Learning, Diversity, and Urban Studies); Lipscomb University (Ed.S. in Educational Leadership)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 234

E-mail: [Raquel.Price@MNPS.org](mailto:Raquel.Price@MNPS.org)

Family: Husband: Tobias

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Heather Roland is a Nashville native and John Overton Alum. Ms. Roland received her Bachelor of Music in Music Education with from Columbus State University and her Master in Education with emphasis in Music Education from Auburn

University. Ms. Roland is in her 9th year. Ms. Roland's primary instrument is French Horn. In her spare time, she teaches private horn lessons, plays with the Tennessee Valley Winds and East End UMC Orchestra, and enjoys gardening, traveling, and spending time with family.

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I am Ashley Scire and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Teacher. This is my second and a half year at Croft. I am originally from New Jersey but moved to Nashville six years ago to attend Lipscomb University. I have my bachelor's degree in K-6 elementary education with an ELL endorsement. I am also a musician and love bringing that creativity to my classroom.

I believe that I have the best job in the world. I love seeing students grow and learn throughout the school year. Seeing a child turn their challenges into success brings so much joy into my life. I believe every child learns differently therefore I use multiple learning strategies in the classroom. From music to dance moves, I incorporate it all. I am very excited for another great year at Croft!

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Name: Mark Seibert

Position: 7th Grade ELA/SS Teacher

Years in Education: 17

Years at Croft: 8

Schools: Long Island, New York: Cold Spring Harbor Jr. / Sr. High and Jonas Salk Middle School. MNPS: McMurray Middle School, Bellevue Middle School, and Croft Middle Design Center

Education: St. Joseph's College (BA)

Family: Wife: Emily, Daughters: Amelia and Madeline, Son: Boman, Dog: Naomi,

Cat: Walton

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 309 E-mail: [mark.seibert@mnps.org](mailto:mark.seibert@mnps.org)

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Name: Joseph Serra, M.Ed

Position: 5th Grade, Mathematics

Years in Education: 11

Years at Croft: 2



Schools: Croft Middle School, Currey Ingram Academy, Golden Gate Middle School (FL), Golden Gate Elementary School (FL), Sabal Palm Elementary (FL)

Education: Oakland University (B.S.), Walden University (M.Ed)

E-mail: [Joseph.Serra@mnps.org](mailto:Joseph.Serra@mnps.org)

Twitter: @MrSerraMath

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Name: Libby Shults

Position: 6<sup>th</sup> grade Inclusion Teacher

Years in Education: 30

Years at Croft: 15

Schools: Bass Middle School from 1988-2002, Croft Middle 2002-present.

Education: Illinois State University BA in Special Education, Walden University Masters in Reading and Literature

Family: Husband James, Children Miranda age 20 and Trayce age 15

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 257(Office);

E-mail: [libby.shults@mnps.org](mailto:libby.shults@mnps.org)

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Name: Tiffany Spicer, M.A.

Position: School Counselor

Years in Education: 15

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Antioch High School, Pearl Cohn High School, Hermitage Elementary, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Fisk University (BA), Tennessee State University (MA), Family: Husband: Lynn; Children: Kayla (22), Kennedy (15), Jaxon (12), Chase (2 - grandson)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 403 (Office)

E-mail: [Tiffany.spicer@mnps.org](mailto:Tiffany.spicer@mnps.org)

Twitter: N/A

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Name: Quanasha Starks

Position: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts and Cheerleading Coach

Years in Education: 5

Years at Croft: 4

Schools: Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Alabama A&M University (Bachelors), Middle Tennessee State University (Masters)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 232 (Office)

E-mail: [quanasha.starks@mnps.org](mailto:quanasha.starks@mnps.org)

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Name: Vahin Taha, B.S.

Position: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math

Years in Education: 2.5

Years at Croft: 2.5

Schools: Croft Middle Design Prep

Education: University of Texas at Dallas (BS)

Family: Husband: Azad

Children: baby boy (on the way)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 268

E-mail: [Vahin.Taha@mnps.org](mailto:Vahin.Taha@mnps.org)

Twitter: @6thCroft & @mrsvtaha

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Name: Kate Taylor

Position: Integrated Math 1 and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher

Year(s) in Education: 2

Schools: Croft Middle School, Washington County Public Schools (VA)

Education: Emory & Henry College (BA)

Family: I have one younger brother who is 20.

Phone: 615-332-0217 x. 306

E-Mail: [kate.taylor@mnps.org](mailto:kate.taylor@mnps.org)

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Name: Crystal Johnson-Terrell

Position: Assistant Principal

Years in Education: 14 years

Years at Croft: 3

Schools: LaVergne Middle School (LaVergne, TN), LaVergne High School (LaVergne, TN), Bellevue Middle School (Nashville, TN), and Croft Design Middle Prep (Nashville, TN)

Education: Tennessee State University (Master of Special Education K-12), Tennessee State University (Educational Specialist in Administration)

Family: Husband: Keith; Children: Timaya (12), Iyana (8)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 264 (school)

E-mail: [crys.johnson-terrell@mnps.org](mailto:crys.johnson-terrell@mnps.org)

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Name: Bethany Tolson

Position: 5<sup>th</sup> grade ELA

Years in Education: 22

Years at Croft: 15

Schools: Union Hill Elementary, Joelton Elementary, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: Middle Tennessee State University (BA), Trevecca Nazarene University (MS)

Family: Husband: Jerod; Children: Jayla (18), Alexander (14), and Ryan (8)

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 238

E-mail: [bethany.tolson@mnps.org](mailto:bethany.tolson@mnps.org)

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Alysse Trusty is in her fifth year of teaching, and is excited to begin her fourth year at Croft Middle Design Center! From Kansas City, Missouri, Ms. Trusty received her Bachelor's in Music Education with an emphasis in strings from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Music Conservatory. While at UMKC, Ms. Bailey studied violin with Paul Hatton and Benny Kim, studied bass with Jeffrey Kail, and

studied piano under the direction of Jane Solose, John McIntyre, and Diane Helfers-Petrella. She is also proficient on the viola and on the cello.

Prior to her work at Croft, Ms. Trusty directed a successful orchestra program at Harmony Middle School and Blue Valley Northwest High School in Overland Park, Kansas. Several of her students were selected to perform at the All-District and All-State level and received superior ratings at the District and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Ms. Trusty is thrilled to continue her teaching career at Croft and to create a desire for lifelong musical learning by developing independent skills, refining technique, and improving and progressing each day to achieve the highest skill level possible.

Ms. Trusty continues to play with community orchestras, freelances, and teaches privately. She is an active member of the American String Teachers Association, the Tennessee Music Educators Association, the National Association for Music Education, and Middle Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association.

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Name: Carrie Utterback, M.Ed

Position: 7-8 Principal

Years in Education: 20

Years at Croft: Beginning my second year

Schools: Marion Intermediate (Marion, Arkansas); Opened 3 new schools within 5 miles of each other because of growth in the area: Chapman's Retreat Elementary, Longview Elementary, & Allendale Elementary (Spring Hill/Williamson County); Liberty Elementary (FSSD); Creswell Middle School of the Arts, Oliver Middle, & Croft (MNPS)

Education: Arkansas State University (BS), Middle Tennessee State University (M.ED),

Family: Husband: Caleb; Dogs Tucker, boxer, & Lily, Lab

Phone: 615-332-0217 ext. 336 (Office)

Hobbies: Riding my Harley, Reading, & Fishing

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Name: Rosemary Wade

Position: Visual Arts (5-8)

Years in Education: 20

Years at Croft: 15

Schools: Centreville Elementary(Alabama), 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue(Tuscaloosa, Alabama), Marietta Junior High(Georgia), Croft Middle Design Center

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Name: Natasha Woods, M.Ed.

Position: Teacher

Years in Education: 8

Years at Croft: 2

Schools: Magnolia Elementary, Highland Oaks Elementary, Croft Middle Design Center

Education: University of Phoenix (BA), Concordia University (M.Ed.)

Family: Spouse E.T.; Children: Ke-Ke, Ariel, Caleb, Rae, Ellie

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