



# BUILDING BLOCKS PRESCHOOL

at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



## **Kathy Rebholz, M.Ed. - Preschool Director**

Ms. Kathy returns to Building Blocks Preschool for her 16<sup>th</sup> school year. She holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in elementary education and has been working in early childhood education for over 25 years. Prior to becoming our preschool director, Kathy taught in every Building Block's classroom including teaching and writing the Music and Movement program. She loves her students and their families, this preschool and church staff, and believes in this wonderful learning community. Before coming to Building Blocks, Kathy spent eight years teaching grades first and second, and as a Title One reading teacher in the Parkway School District. Kathy and her husband have three children all whom attended Building Blocks. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys attending her children's events, reading, hiking, and completing home projects.



## **Pastor Amy Stewart – Pastor of Discipleship – Preschool Chapel Time**

We welcome Pastor Amy back for another year of leading Chapel Time for our Building Blocks Preschoolers. Pastor Amy's calm, yet joyous personality provides an early childhood introduction to prayer, Jesus, and church. As a former Building Blocks parent, she has a personal connection to our Building Blocks Preschool community. At Good Shepherd, Pastor Amy oversees the ministry of the first half of life, from birth through college outreach, walking with children, youth, and families on their faith journey. She guides and nurtures people with their spiritual development, individually and in community. She especially loves walking alongside folks who have big questions, doubts, and curiosity about faith. Pastor Amy lives with her husband, two children, and a dog. She enjoys spending time outside in God's beautiful creation, cooking, playing board games, and spending time with her family. She enjoys being a pastor here at Good Shepherd because of how this congregation loves God, young people, and outreach.



## **Taira Price, M.Ed. – All School Music and Movement Teacher**

Ms. Taira returns for her 16<sup>th</sup> year at Building Blocks. Taira has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, a master's degree in reading instruction and communication, and possesses a certificate in early childhood education. She taught various grades in Parkway School District for six years. As Building Block's music teacher, Taira incorporates rhythm activities, instruments, and motor activities to develop the music in every child. She also uses music to teach early literacy and math concepts. Prior to leading our preschool music classes, Taira taught in all four preschool classrooms throughout her years here. Her hobbies include attending her children's sporting events and completing at home projects. Taira and her husband, Jason, have four children all who have attended Building Blocks.



## **Jen Sullivan - Preschool One Teacher**

The Building Blocks staff is proud to have Mrs. Jen Sullivan on our team. This is Ms. Jen's 12<sup>th</sup> year at Building Blocks and she wins our one-year-olds over with her warm and loving demeanor! Her "little angels" literally jump into her arms and put her right to work. They play, get to know each other, and have fun exploring their early developmental experiences together. Her previous experience working in an early childhood center and her own children's school comes through right off the bat. Jen has a degree in English and Journalism from University of Central Missouri. Professionally, Jen worked as a marketing representative for eight years and stayed home with her children for nine years. She and her husband, Sean, have two children and enjoy actively cheering them on at their sporting events.



## **Julie Avise – Preschool One Teacher**

Julie looks forward to her fifth year at Building Blocks! She enjoys exploring art, music, and literacy with her curious students. She believes a preschooler's first experience should be positive and fun-filled! Before coming to Building Blocks, Julie worked as a librarian for St. Louis County Library and Rockwood School District. She holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Missouri S&T. Julie and her husband have four children, whom they love watching do what *they* love and supporting their passions. You can find Julie reading a book, on the lacrosse field, or exploring a creek.



### **Lisa Li – P1 & P2 Extended Day Teacher**

Ms. Lisa returns to Building Blocks for her 19<sup>th</sup> year! As many of you know, Lisa has a wonderful rapport with her students because they love and trust her. Her soft and gentle demeanor makes her very approachable for children and parents. Lisa especially enjoys arts and crafts with them and enjoys watching them learn and grow. Lisa has a bachelor's degree in economics and is a former accountant. She and her husband are proud parents of their adult children who are recent college graduates and living successful lives. Lisa teaches Chinese on the weekends and enjoys reading, exercising, and cooking meals for loved ones.



### **Michele Dolan – Preschool Two Teacher / P1 & P2 Extended Day Teacher**

Ms. Michele returns for her fifth year at Building Blocks Preschool! Michele comes to us with seven years preschool experience. Her nurturing personality sets children at ease from the get-go. Michele enjoys trying new things with them. Ms. Michele keeps her students on their toes during circle time; you never know what she will pull out of her toolbox! Before teaching preschool, Michele was a dance teacher for over 25 years at her family-owned dance studio. Michele and her husband have been married for over 30 years and have three children. Together, they spend a lot of time operating *Casual Tees*, their family-owned business, where they celebrate over 30 years of operation.



### **Mindy Bailey – Preschool Two Teacher**

Mindy Bailey enters her third year at Building Blocks after serving as one of our beloved substitute teacher for four years. She enjoys our Building Blocks students at every age level and loves having a Building Blocks P2 "family" of her own with Ms. Michele! She finds joy in each preschooler's personality and shares their enthusiasm for life! Mindy has been a Girl Scout leader for over 15 years and is an avid volunteer in her children's school activities. She holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and business from Central Methodist University and was an Area Manager for AT&T prior to staying home to raising her three children. Born and raised in Lake of the Ozarks, Mindy and her husband of over 20 years love calling St. Louis home.



### **Erin Langan – Extended Day Teacher**

Erin Langan, a new Building Blocks extended day and substitute teacher, is excited to join our staff this year! Erin holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Missouri Baptist University and enjoys working with children both in and out of the classroom. In addition to teaching, Erin is a part-time trainer at a local gym where she runs the *CrossFit Kids* program to encourage kids to stay healthy and be active. Erin, husband Nick, and two sons (Benjamin-8) and (Cooper-6) are members of Good Shepherd and a former Building Blocks family. As an active Good Shepherd church member, you might find Erin volunteering at Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. Erin enjoys going camping and floating with family and friends as well as working out and lifting weights at her second home...the gym.



### **Alyssa Lohmeier – Preschool Three Teacher & P3 / P4 Extended Day Teacher**

Alyssa joined the Building Blocks team three years ago after being a stay-at-home mom for five years. Upon graduating with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, Alyssa spent four years in the elementary classroom, three of which included teaching kindergarten. It is awesome to watch Alyssa in the classroom as her gift of teaching shines through in all that she does. Furthermore, she enjoys collaborating with all the wonderful teachers here to create a positive and engaging learning environment for each child! Alyssa and her husband have two children who have enjoyed being a part of Building Blocks Preschool. Their family spends the summers swimming and visiting relatives!



### **Chrissie Staley – Preschool Three Teacher**

After welcoming Chrissie Staley to our Building Blocks Preschool staff last year, we quickly saw her natural way of connecting with children. Her past teaching experience includes a wide age range from three-years-old thru high school. In Missouri and New Jersey, Chrissie worked as a three and four-year-old preschool teacher, a physical education teacher for all levels, and a coach for field hockey, lacrosse, and swimming. In addition, her bachelor's degree in English Communications provided many learning experiences in the business world. Chrissie and her husband have three children; two of whom attend Building Blocks. When not at school, Chrissie enjoys spending quality time with her children, family, and friends.



### **Jen Rieves - Preschool Four Teacher & P3 / P4 Extended Day Teacher**

Ms. Jen returns to for her eighth school year at Building Blocks Preschool! Ms. Jen came to us with over 20 years of experience in the early childhood setting and previously taught for seven years in a three-year-old classroom. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Lindenwood University. Ms. Jen's enthusiasm in the classroom engages and motivates to her students. Her classroom environment stimulates curiosity and encourages students to explore and ask questions. In turn, the children enjoy sharing with her what they are thinking! She cares deeply about preparing her students for their kindergarten adventures. She and her husband have two children and enjoy attending their many sporting events.



### **Barb Slavkin – Preschool Four Teacher Assistant (Mondays and Wednesdays)**

We welcome Ms. Barb back for third year at Building Blocks where she will work alongside Ms. Jen and Ms. Susan! Barb has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Indiana State University. After teaching first-grade in the Parkway School District, Barb decided to stay home to raise her own children. Overtime, Barb pursued her creative side and began a career in interior design where she owned and operated successfully for many years. While teaching preschool to her granddaughter during the pandemic, Barb realized how much she enjoyed the enthusiasm and excitement for a four-year-old's learning experience and decided to return to the classroom. Barb and her husband, David, have three sons and six grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys interior design projects, yoga, and visiting with family and friends. Barb is thrilled to work with her students the Preschool Four Classroom!



### **Susan Mayer - Discovery Room Teacher / Preschool Four Teacher**

Ms. Susan is a seasoned Building Blocks teacher and has been with us for over 25 years! She taught our Preschool Three class for many years and decided to take on the Science Discovery Room several years ago. Susan approached this task with ease and excitement. Whether students are digging in dirt, gutting pumpkins, cooking, or investigating a project, kids like to get their hands dirty during the many hands-on activities she provides! Susan enjoys the children's enthusiasm when her students discover something new. She has a degree in gerontology and has participated in numerous early childhood education training classes. She enjoys spending time with her family and exercising. Susan is married to Dave and has three grown daughters and five grandchildren; many of whom attended Building Blocks.