

AES Staff Photo Album 2020–21

Can't "Mask" Our Love for AES!



Joy Redmann – AES Principal

I love Athens Elementary! I started my career at AES in 1997 as a kindergarten teacher. My husband's name is Frank. I have two children and two stepchildren. I enjoy crocheting, reading, camping, and kayaking with my dog, Daisy. I enjoy kids' knock-knock jokes!



Dale Westfall – Middle School and Elementary Physical Education Teacher

This is my 30th year teaching and my 13th year in the Athens School District. I was born and raised in Athens and went to college at the great university of UW–LaCrosse.



Kira Kalepp – 4th Grade Teacher

Hi everyone I am excited to be starting my first year teaching at Athens Elementary!!! I was born and raised in Abbotsford and graduated in 2011. My education was completed at NTC in 2013 for my associates degree and I just received my bachelors degree from UW-Superior. In my free time I love spending time with my family, playing board games, going for bike rides and walks with my dog Emmy, playing volleyball, tennis, golf, crafting and DIY projects. :)



Mr. Czech

MS Math Teacher /Title Math/
Data Specialist



I'm starting my 29th year of teaching in Athens. I love coaching softball and helping students and athletes reach their potential. I like to bowl and golf. My wife, Lisa, and I live in town and attend Trinity Lutheran Church. I have a daughter and son-in-law, Emily and Tucker, a son named Derek, and a dog named Marley. I just became a first time grandpa this summer... a grandson named Braxton!



Jackie Schelling-5th Grade Teacher

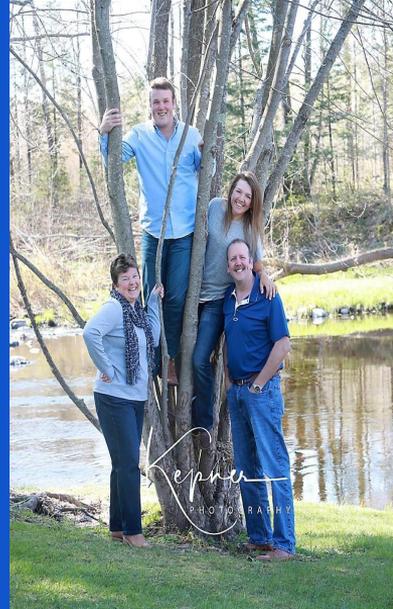
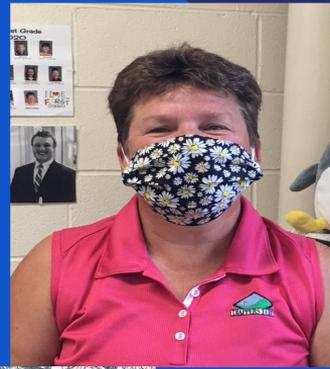


This is my 23rd year teaching in Athens, but it's my 29th year teaching overall! I grew up in Abbotsford and graduated from high school there, but I have lived in Athens for the last 20 years. I went to college at UW-Eau Claire where I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. I love to spend time with my family at the lake. I also love reading all kinds of books, especially mysteries! I enjoy music and road trips too!

Mrs. Luther

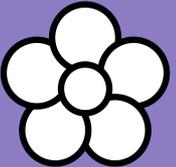
First Grade Teacher

I am Mrs. Luther and I love teaching first grade. I have been teaching for 31 years. When I am not in the classroom I love being with my family. I enjoy golfing, playing volleyball and working in my garden or in my flower beds.





**I'm Mrs. Hessefort and I like to rhyme,
Title One Reading and ELL fill my school time.
I'm a graduate of Medford and UW-Green Bay,
Starting my 13th year as a teaching Blue Jay.
I live in the country where I can roam free,
Cooking, baking and gardening all delight me.
Bet you didn't know I'm a Wizard of Oz® fan,
Let's make this new school year the best that we can!**



John Keefe - 2nd Grade Teacher



I am starting my 2nd year teaching in Athens. I love playing and coaching basketball! My wife, Kynn timer, and I just got married this summer and bought a house in Athens. We have two goldendoodles named Duke (left) and Dex (right). I was born and raised in Medford and went to college at UW-Stout. I enjoy the lake, sports, vacations, walking the dogs and being an elementary teacher! Fun Fact: Mrs. Diedrich is my mother-in-law! Go Bluejays!



Mrs. Cherish Byrd - 1st grade teacher

I'm beginning my 19th year of teaching! My husband's name is Bill and we have 4 children - Will, Ben, Lucas, and Joe. In my "spare time", I enjoy reading, gardening, taking walks with my children and 2 dogs, and painting rocks.



Courtney Hartwig- Preschool Teacher



This will be my 3rd year teaching at Athens Elementary. I live in Athens with my husband, Eric, two children named Brilee and Brody, and our black lab, Kenzie. We have a small hobby farm with beef cows, sheep, chickens, cats and a donkey. I love spending time outdoors camping, horseback riding, fishing, snowmobiling, and hunting.



Danielle Diedrich

4th Grade Teacher

I am so excited to be back at school! I have been teaching for 12 years, and this is my third year here at AES. I am married to Mr. Craig Diedrich, who teaches at AMS. I have 4 children, 1 daughter-in-law, 1 son-in-law, 1 grandbaby, and 1 dog. I love sports and music! I coach, watch, and play many sports. I play the piano and flute, and I sing in our church's worship group. You will often hear music coming from my classroom!

Fun fact: Mr. Keefe is my son-in-law!





Renee Haines - Third Grade (3H)

My husband and I have been married for 16 years. We enjoy going to Duluth with our family. We have 4 boys, two in college and two in high school. I'm currently finishing my Reading 316 License and I already have my license to teach grades 1-8. I enjoy doing carpentry work around the house, landscaping outdoors, and watching Lifetime movies. I'm also an advocate of children with dyslexia and ADD/ADHD.

Carla Nowak - Kindergarten Teacher

I am excited to be teaching kindergarten again this year! I live in Athens with my husband, Dan, my kids, Caleb, Megan, and Faith, and our dog, Copper. I love spending time with my family at a lake, playing games, hiking at state parks, reading and music.





Mrs. Henrichs - 2nd Grade

This will be my 27th year of teaching in Athens. My husband, Tim, and I live in the Hamburg area. We have two beautiful daughters in college, Taylor and Morgan. We adopt many stray pets and currently have one dog, three cats, and a guinea pig. I enjoy being outside, bowling, shooting pool, going to haunted houses, and reading a good mystery.





Brittney Knetter (soon to be Lang!) Elementary Special Education



This is my first year teaching at Athens. I currently live in Edgar where I grew up. I am excited to begin this new chapter in life! I am also excited to get married in October. I enjoy spending time with my Fiance and my family. In my spare time I enjoy reading and cooking.





Mrs. Dee Brewster Media Specialist

Hello Everyone! I am so excited to be back for my 9th year here at Athens Elementary! I love to read, and I love to share this with my students, especially *Pete the Cat* books. I am also a true-blue Bluejay, as I was born and raised here in Athens, WI.

Steve, my husband, is a trauma nurse for the Aspirus Medivac helicopter. My two adult children, Aaron and Elizabeth, both live in Madison. Aaron works in Information Systems and Elizabeth is a Wisconsin Badger--studying to be a pharmacist.

We have one cat, Macy, who can be very naughty at times.



Pete the Cat wears a mask, too!



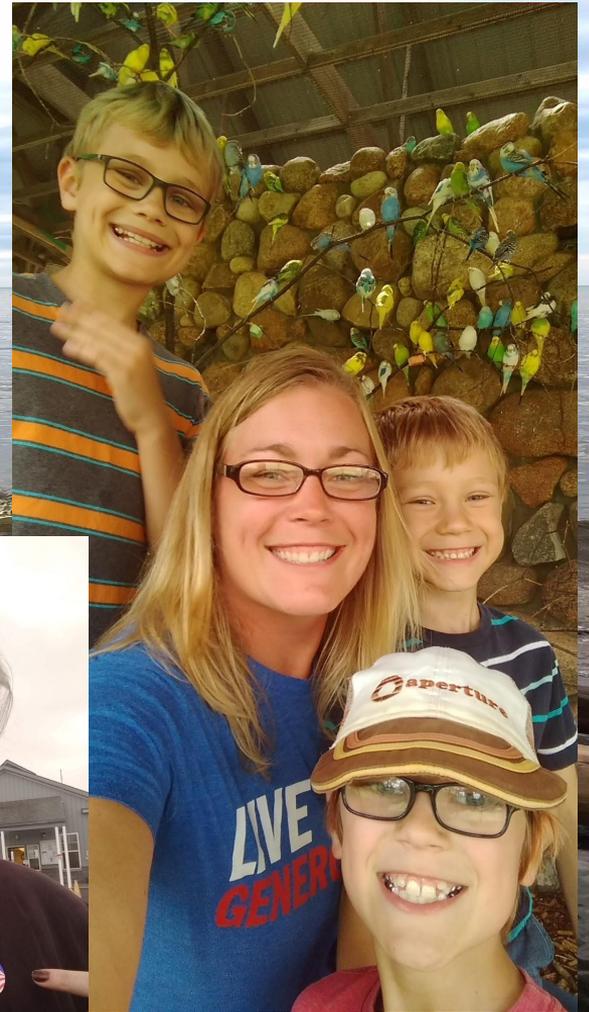
A fun little fact is that I am an aspiring children's book author. I am working on a book called, *The Adventures of Leroy the Friendly Farm Dog*.



The character of Leroy is based on Ms. Jessica Stuttgen's dog named Leroy. Ms. Stuttgen is a teacher at Athens High School.

Ms. Melissa Adamski

Your favorite (and only!) Art Teacher, here! I work here in Athens, but live in Marathon, where my three adorable (I'm not biased) children attend school. Not only do I do art in my spare time, but I play piano, guitar, and sing! I love spending time outdoors, especially when I get to explore new places. My boys and I love to go to the beach as often as possible.



Mr. Adam Triebold

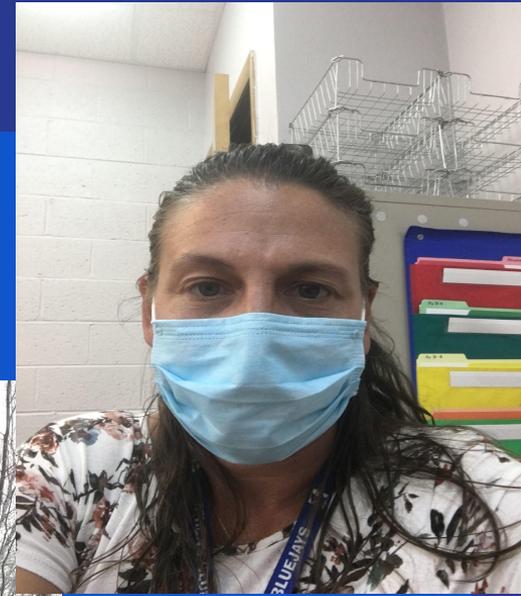
Hi! I'm Mr. Triebold, and I teach Music at Athens Elementary, as well as Choir at the Middle/High School. Some of my other hobbies are spending time outside gardening, fishing, hunting, astronomy, playing and writing music, and being with my wife, Mrs. Triebold.



Mrs. Beth Heier

Special Education Aide

This is my second year as an aide in Athens, but my first year at the elementary. I live in Athens, out in the country, with my husband, Joseph and our four children; Xandria, McCormick, Benno and Isabel. I enjoy sewing and being outside whether it be camping, gardening, hunting, fishing or spending time with my kids.





Mrs. Wagner

Instructional Assistant

I was born and raised an Athens Blue Jay. My “happy place” is being with my family, especially my four grandkids and granddog, Rufus. I enjoy reading and the great outdoors which includes going for walks, fishing, and snowshoeing. I “marvel” at Marvel® movies, sunsets at night and snow that sparkles in the sunlight.



MARVEL

MS. BORCHARDT - 3RD GRADE TEACHER

HELLO! THIS IS MY FIRST YEAR AT ATHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND I AM SO EXCITED TO BE A BLUEJAY. I GRADUATED FROM EDGAR IN 2016, BUT RECENTLY GRADUATED COLLEGE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH. I HAVE 3 OLDER SIBLINGS IN MY FAMILY, WHO ARE EITHER MARRIED OR ENGAGED, ALONG WITH TWO NIECES AND ONE NEPHEW. IN MY FREE TIME, I LOVE BEING ACTIVE OUTDOORS, SPENDING TIME ON THE LAKE, PLAYING BASKETBALL, READING, AND BEING WITH MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS. I ALSO LOVE TO TRAVEL AND PARTICIPATED IN A STUDY ABROAD TRIP TO GREECE AND ALBANIA WHILE I WAS IN COLLEGE. I AM SUPER EXCITED TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR AND MEET EVERYONE!



Cari Markman – Instructional Aide

This will be my 4th year at AESI Prior to discovering my love for working in Education, I worked for 20 years in the Restaurant Industry, After working for a corporation and opening restaurants in 3 states, I found my way back to WI 10 years ago to settle down close to family and marry my wonderful husband, Jon. We have a beautiful and energetic daughter, Adeline, who just turned 8. We spend our time together gardening, canoeing and kayaking, and being adventurous. I love to put my chef skills to work making meals for my family and friends. We have a loyal 9 year old German Shepherd named Echo, and recently welcomed 6 month old Shelby to our family! We also have 3 egg hens named Peepers, Daisy and Honey.

¿Hablas español? ¡Yo también! Puede que no siempre lo haga bien, pero sigo intentando y aprendiendo más cada día. Estoy aquí para ofrecer apoyo para mantener una comunicación sólida entre los maestros, el personal y TODAS nuestras familias en el Distrito Escolar de Athens.



Mrs. Pempek

Instructional Assistant

This will be my 4th year at Athens Elementary. I live in the Athens area with my husband Randall, who is the Tech Ed teacher in Abbotsford. We enjoy bike riding and working on home and yard projects. My favorite summer job is mowing the lawn!



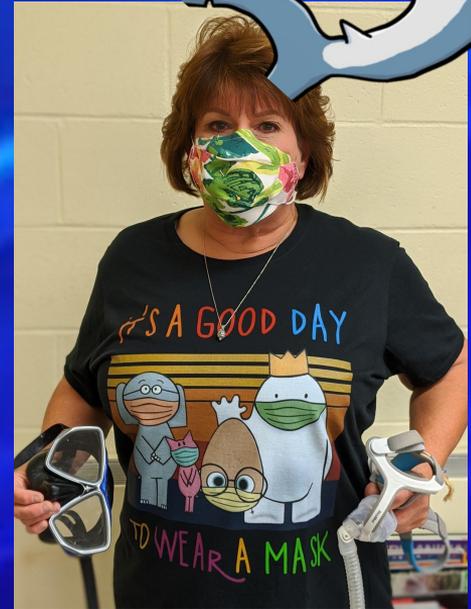


Cindy Kruger ~ Kindergarten



This summer my sister and I planned to be in an underwater cage with great white sharks swimming around us. Since our trip was cancelled, we recreated what we think it will be like when we go in July 2021.

This is my son, Christopher. He is a teacher in Chicago.



Ehh...what's one more mask?

Beth Steinke - AES Secretary

I started working at Athens Elementary School in 2016. I am married and have three kids - Aleah, Caleb, and Levi. We enjoy camping, water skiing, kayaking, watching monster trucks, bike rides, and weekend vacations.



Mel Daniels – MCSE Secretary

This is my 5th year with Marathon County Special Education in the Athens School District as the Sped Secretary. My husband's name is Andy and we have 3 children. Samantha (19) is a sophomore at UW Stout, Logan (17) is a senior in high school and Hunter (15) is a sophomore in high school. I am currently attending NTC part-time. I love spending time with my family and friends.



Jessa Reif – Speech Language Pathologist

This is my fifth year working in Athens and my ninth year as a speech-language pathologist overall. I live in Wausau with my husband and three children - Carson, Easton, and Alder. We enjoy spending time up north - boating, tubing, water skiing, knee boarding, and swimming.





Aliya Thunder Health Aide



This is my first year at Athens Elementary School. I was homeschooled growing up and graduated in 2013. I have my B.S. in Psychology and I am currently taking some extra classes part time at UWSP. My husband, Zach, and I have 3 kids. Jael and Hosea are my 4 year old twins and Malachi is our 1 year old. I have lived in Taiwan and in Niger, West Africa. I spent 8 months in Quebec learning french too! I love learning about different cultures, travelling, gardening, reading, singing, cooking, and re-modeling the old farm house we just bought in Athens. I am looking forward to this school year and getting to know the kids at AES!

Terry Larsen

Student Support Specialist

(Elementary School Counselor/Title Reading)

This will be my 22nd year with the Athens School District and a total of 30 years teaching! I live with my dog, Peanut. In addition, I have two sons; Corey, who lives in MN near the boundary water, and Casey, who lives in CA. My daughter, Kelli, lives near Superior, WI. Two granddaughters and two grandsons are my pride and joy; Madden, Kayla, McCoy, and Carter. It's a good thing I love to travel! I also enjoy camping, reading mysteries, creating flower gardens, and riding my Harley.



Miss Kerkman - School Psychologist

Hello! My name is Miss K and I'm the School Psychologist for Athens School District. That means I help students and staff to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments. I have been in education for 16 years, and am starting my 4th year at Athens. I love travelling, reading, kayaking, doing puzzles, sudoku, hanging out with my family, and adding plants to my home!



Nancy Ewan - Instructional Aide

I have worked for the Athens School District for 23 years with 6 of those years being in Special Education. My husband's name is Rick. We have 3 sons, Chris, Greg, Jameson and 2 daughter-in-laws, Elissa and Kelsi. Father and sons all play trumpet. We also have a Border Collie named Cookie. I love gardening, reading books, singing and spending time with family and friends. I love working with children and consider myself a kid at heart.



Linda Literski Instructional Aide



I have worked with our Pre - K program from the time it began, 26 years ago.

Working with little people has so many challenges along with so many hugs, smiles, giggles, and many innocent stories.

I am married to Duane. We have 3 children, Mistie, Ashley and Dustin. All married and 7 grandchildren with 1 more on the way.

I enjoy family trips, camping, gardening, walks for thoughts and spending time with the grandkids.

