



MEET THE TEAM

Administrative Team



Jami Young, WSS Founder, Site Coordinator RP Penn Elementary BS Elementary Education/Special Education

I have owned and operated Winter Sun Schoolhouse since 2005 and have acted as the Site Coordinator of the Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania Elementary Kindergarten program since 2012. I graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1996 with a degree in Elementary Education/Special Education, but my real degree was granted to me by the seven children I raised. Chance, Richie, Sky, Ryan, Sierra, Sedona, and Jett are the ones that taught me the value of growing up in an emotionally loving, physically challenging, mentally stimulating, and creative environment. I have taught on the Hopi Indian Reservation and spent time in a variety of classrooms. I believe that education is a tremendous tool by which we can make a meaningful impact on humanity and the planet we live on. I plan to be in this field for the rest of my life and hope to reach children far and wide; however, my immediate goal is to continue working for my dedicated and heartfelt team, the families I serve and the children I am so fortunate to cross paths with.

Crystal Chumley-Jarvis, Human Resource Director, Yoga Teacher BA International Studies & Sociology, Yoga Training

I have been a Winter Sun mom since 2011! I searched far and wide for a place I felt would honor my child as an individual and found WSS to be that place. I have now been working at Winter Sun for seven years and have found that Winter Sun also honors me as an individual. I am an MSU graduate, a wife and a mother of four. I love being outside with my family. My goal at Winter Sun is to continue to provide a loving, inspiring environment for our staff and your children!



Bethany Kulesza, WSS Central Administrator, Whitehall Road Campus Director

MA Early Childhood Education & BA Elementary Education

I have worked at Winter Sun since 2011! My husband, Tony, and I have three rambunctious boys: Ryan, Grant and Jaxon. They definitely keep us busy with school, sports and life! I have a bachelor's degree in Social Studies and Elementary Education. I hold a professional teaching certificate, and I am working on my last few classes to finally obtain a master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Mindy Andrews, Ruddiman Drive Campus Director, Music Teacher BS Elementary Education

I have worked at Winter Sun for more than ten years now. I have a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and feel blessed every day knowing I get to spend my days with all of the little ones at the Winter Sun Ruddiman Campus. At home, I have three kids that keep me pretty busy and keep my life full of love. I'm grateful that I get to help so many little one's love learning the way I do!



Administrative Team continued...

Cindy Taylor, Henry Street Campus Director, Music Together Specialist & Music Teacher ***BS Business Administration/Marketing***



I have been happily working at Winter Sun for almost eight years. Prior to becoming the Director at the Henry Street campus, I worked at the Whitehall Road, Ruddiman Avenue and Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania campus teaching musical theater to infants through kindergarten-aged kiddos. Over the years, I have also been involved in several Winter Sun business initiatives including a redesign of the website, assisting in curriculum development and providing administrative support in the day-to-day operations. Going forward, my focus will be on supporting the families and teachers at the Henry Street campus as well as singing, dancing, being silly and loving kids as the Musical Theater Teacher a few days a week. I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Marketing from Western Michigan University. I graduated from Mona Shores High School and have spent most of my childhood and adult life in the Norton Shores area. I am married and adore

being a mom to my three amazing children: Nathan, Nicholas, and Samantha. In my spare time I love to read, be outdoors in the garden or at the lake, run, support my kids in all their extracurricular activities and spend time with extended family and friends.



Liliana Burillo, Spanish Teacher ***BS Business Administration***

I was born in Colombia, South America and studied business administration there before coming to the United States ten years ago. Life and the love of children drew me to a career in education. Before coming to Winter Sun, I worked in the Spanish Two-Way Immersion program in Muskegon Public Schools for four years. I'm very grateful for my four sons (who are my own little teachers). I love Winter Sun Schoolhouse's vision as well as helping our little ones grow and learn to love the Spanish culture and language.

Sierra Young, Administrative Assistant ***Pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration*** ***Management & Finance with Minors in International Business and Nonprofit Administration***

My mom opened Winter Sun when I was in second grade, and I have worked here ever since, literally. Until recently, I didn't realize how much it has taught me about the challenges that come with running a small business. I am thankful to be able to apply real life situations to what I am learning in school. I attended Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, for three years and studied abroad, in Prague for a semester before moving home to help mom with the business and finish school at GVSU. When I have free time, I can be found exercising, laughing with my family, cooking, reading, traveling and spending time with good friends.



Jenelle White, Natural Space Designer, Creative Space Designer ***BS Landscape Design***

After graduating from Michigan State University and spending nearly a decade in the commercial/residential landscaping industry, my heart has lead me to Winter Sun! My life is blessed with a loving and supportive husband, two beautiful children, Canyon and Sierra, and six spoiled chickens. I have many hobbies and interests, including hiking, fishing, art, and vegetable and butterfly gardening; I also enjoy learning about sustainable, healthy and natural living! I am truly grateful for this both unique and meaningful opportunity as I enjoy sharing my creative energy and passion for art, gardening and environmental stewardship with the children. Working together to create a space where children can explore,

discover, learn and grow while unlocking their imagination and connect with the world around them is what it's all about for me.

Whitehall Road Campus

Onica McFarland, Lead Voyager Teacher

Child Development Associates

I have been blessed with being a teacher here at Winter Sun since 2011. I graduated from Muskegon Community College with my Child Development associate degree. One of my biggest passions are kids! I love experiencing their worlds, and helping them grow as we play, learn, experiment, stretch, dance, and sing! I also enjoy watching soccer and Michigan football games with my husband, Jared, and our son, Dempsey. I love what I do and plan on teaching here at Winter Sun for as long as I can.



Holly Binns, Assistant Teacher

Pursuing Child Development Associates

Teaching preschool has been my passion for as long as I can remember. I have worked at Winter Sun since 2018 and have loved every second of it! I am working towards obtaining my CDA and my hobbies include hiking, art, and spending time with my friends and family.

Jodi Groessl, Lead Navigator Teacher

MA & BA Education, ZA Endorse Early Childhood and Special Education, Certified Early Childhood Specialist (GSRP)

I have been with Winter Sun Schoolhouse for many years. My daughter, Lily, went to Winter Sun in 2006. She is now a junior at Whitehall High School. She loves to come to Winter Sun whenever she gets a chance. Lily plays on the high school tennis team. My son, Jack, is attending his first year at GVSU. He is studying Mechanical Engineering and belongs to the GVSU Rowing Team. I graduated from GVSU with a BA in Special Education. I am endorsed in ZA, CI, EI, and LD. I received my master's degree from Grand Valley and attended Western Michigan University for classes in a second master's in the area of counseling. I have worked with many ages of children, from high school down to preschool. I feel very grateful to have nestled in with Early Childhood because it is such a fantastic age. My life is filled with many passions. I love to be outdoors, biking, kayaking, hiking, camping, and so on. I love to take photographs and I love working with children.



Shay Pinter, Assistant Navigator Teacher

Associates Degree and Pursuing Child Development Associates

I have worked at Winter Sun since 2016 and am pursuing a degree in education. I enjoy helping people and love spending my days with children. When I am not working, I can be found hanging out with my little sister, with friends or my fiancé.

Lindsey Eyestone, Lead Pioneer Teacher

Child Development Associates Winter Sun is my home and where my heart lives. I have been here 2013 and never plan to leave. These children are my life! I also have another life and that includes camping, fishing, reading and exploring the beauty of west Michigan.



Whitehall Road Campus continued...

Kayla Purdy-Edgell, Assistant Pioneer Teacher

I enjoy being silly and dancing around to music with the children, encouraging them to move and be active. I am currently pursuing a Degree in Nursing, with hopes to also remain at Winter Sun. I look forward to helping your children grow and learn as they help me do the same.



Kim Dalga, Lead Explorer Teacher

Child Development Associates Infant/Toddler

I began working at Winter Sun in 2015. I am a mother of four and a grandmother of five and another one on the way. I recently received my Child Development Associates! I love smiling, dancing, singing and being silly, so spending my time with children is the perfect position for me.

Maryssa Sischo, Assistant Explorer Teacher

I have been a part of Winter Sun for almost three years working in our Explorer Room, but my love for kids and unlocking their potential has been happening for years and years. My husband and I have one daughter and couldn't be happier that she is a part of the Winter Sun family. Because that's what I love about this place... we are FAMILY. We treat your kids like our own and love them like our own and are ecstatic to help them learn like they're our own. My personal zeal for these kiddos is learning to speak their language so that I can help them in the best possible way to GROW emotionally, physically, and mentally. I look forward to this year and spending it with your child!



Kaylie Malinowski, Assistant Teacher

I come to work in my power wheelchair because I was born ten weeks premature; I have cerebral palsy. I have been using my wheelchair since I was five. I started at Winter Sun in June 2018 when Jami interviewed me, looked past my physical limitations and focused on my strengths. It is such a privilege to work with little children, molding their hearts and minds. I love my teammates too, who like myself, focus on strengths, love and acceptance. My hobbies include bowling, bocce ball, listening to music and visiting with family and friends.

Jett Young, Assistant Teacher, Reeths-Puffer Senior

I was Winter Sun's very first student and now, fifteen years later, I help my mom with a lot of projects. I love Winter Sun and am very proud of my mom. I am participating in the Career Tech Center building program for the 2nd year, a program that teaches my classmates and I how to build a house from the ground up. I like to play sports, hang out with my friends and travel with my family.



**COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING;
KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS;
WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS.**

Henry Ford

Ruddiman Drive Campus

Kaitlin Valentin, Lead Voyager Teacher ***Pursuing Child Development Associates***

I have been working at Winter Sun, on and off, since I was sixteen! I am currently continuing classes at MCC to complete my associates in Child Development! I am a mother of 3 young children and love every part of it. I love watching little minds grow, through play, music, and educational opportunities, so spending my day with your children is exactly where I am meant to be!



Chynnah Corpe, Co-lead Voyager Teacher ***Child Development Associates***

Winter Sun has been my home for the past five years. It is also the school that my daughter attends. I love doing yoga, acting silly and spending time with my co-workers. I recently received my CDA and am pursuing a Degree in Nursing. I team up with Miss Mindy and the Voyager class at the Ruddiman campus. Together, we get to have the most fun ever!

Alyssa Janusiewicz, Assistant Navigator Teacher

I grew up in Muskegon and graduated from Calvary Christian in 2010. I have been working at Winter Sun since August 2018. Winter Sun is like my second family - I love my job and my coworkers! Working with kids has always been a passion of mine. I have a total of 8yrs of experience. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband and family. I also love to travel and be outside.



TEAMWORK
MAKES THE
DREAM
WORK

Henry Street Campus



Kailey Johnston, Lead Voyager Teacher **Child Development Associates**

I have been working at Winter Sun for almost two years now. I am the lead Voyager teacher and have my Child Development Associates. I absolutely love working here! I love to teach, be silly and give a ton of hugs! When I'm not at work I spend time with my husband and two children, Carter (7) and Cora (4). We spend a lot of our free time at sporting events, swimming in our pool, eating ice cream and bike riding.

Erica Kelly, Lead Voyager Teacher

MA Education Administration, BA Elementary Special Education (CI/EI) Master's

Teaching has always been my passion. After receiving my bachelor's in Elementary Education and Special Education from Grand Valley, I moved to Colorado where I taught students with Significant Support Needs Grades K-5th. Eight years later, I decided to move back to Michigan with my husband and our twin boys. After reestablishing our home in west Michigan, I was feeling the call to teach again and was lucky enough to stumble upon Winter Sun. I immediately fell head over heels! Winter Sun's vision and philosophy directly aligns with my own and speaks to my heart. This is my second year at Winter Sun, and my boys and I are both loving it! You can't put a price on your child asking you when they get to go back to school. I am honored to be a part of something as special as Winter Sun and the community we serve.



Kristen Brooks, Assistant Voyager Teacher

My journey at Winter Sun Schoolhouse has just begun and I'm very excited to be a part of this wonderful team. I graduated from Reeths-Puffer and attended Baker College for Elementary Education. I have worked on and off for the last twenty years with children. I recently married my best friend and added two amazing boys to my life: Justin (13) and Mason (10). In my spare time, you can find me at baseball, soccer or LOTS of hockey games.

Barb Bobinski, Lead Navigator Teacher

BA Early Childhood Education

Most of us find one career that we enjoy and feel lucky to be doing what we love. My life has been blessed by having discovered and loved two amazing careers. My first go around was in the travel industry; I worked as a travel agent for 30 years and was given endless opportunities to travel the world. I had always desired to be a teacher and due to corporate restructuring I found myself unemployed at age 48! What a perfect time to go back to school and take the plunge into Early Childhood Education. I have worked for Teleton Migrant Head Start and Head Start at The Glenside Early Childhood Center Then one year ago I was blessed to make my way to Winter Sun! I started at the Henry Street Campus when it opened in June 2018. I think working with young children is an adventure every day! I love the wonder and excitement of a three-year-old making a new discovery. One of my favorite sayings is: *Find a job you love, and you'll never work a day in your life!* That is exactly how I feel about my job at Winter Sun Schoolhouse.



Henry Street Campus continued...



Veda Rooks, Assistant Navigator Teacher **BA Communication Disorders, Minor ASL**

I am a recent graduate of Central Michigan University. My degree is a BA in communication disorders with a minor in American Sign Language; given the time between going back to earn a Master's degree in speech-language pathology, I have taken the chance to focus on working with my very favorite population – children. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to work with the wonderful students here at Winter Sun and could not be more excited for this journey. I hope to gain experience, knowledge and sweet memories from each child I work with and promise to be a great leader, kind friend and loyal support to each in return.

Torrie Fett, Lead Pioneer Teacher, Assistant Director **Child Development Associates**

Prior to the opening of the Henry Street campus, I worked in the Explorer room at our Whitehall Road campus. I have an associate degree in child development and I have a passion for teaching! I also enjoy traveling and seeing new places. I love running and being outside, and I also have an amazing family and friends that I love to spend time with.



Skylar Bates, Assistant Pioneer Teacher

I am currently a student at Baker College pursuing my bachelor's degree in Nursing! I am a new teacher at Winter Sun and am grateful to put my passion for working with children and helping them grow and learn, to work. My dream is to become a pediatric nurse at the Helen DeVos Hospital, but in the meantime, I have loved getting to know the children at Winter Sun. Alongside their own learning, I have learned many things about myself as well! Outside of work and school, I enjoy spending time with my fiancé and our dog. We like to do all outdoor activities like hiking and boating, and we also like to watch sports.

Amber Moser, Assistant Pioneer Teacher

I have always had a passion for working with children! I enjoy kids of all ages and love watching them grow! I have always worked in daycare straight out of high school. I recently graduated Ross Medical and upon obtaining my Medical Office Administration, with my Billing and Coding Specialist Certification, I realized that working with children holds my heart! My husband and I have a fun, creative and goofy 5-year-old boy who is the light of our lives! We spend most of our time outdoors, always on the road and always up for an adventure! I am so excited and honored to grow and learn with your children!



Marie Sorensen, Assistant Teacher **Associate's Degree**

I have been working with children for a couple years and am grateful to have found this Winter Sun family. I have my general associate degree in arts and science and am currently going to school for nursing. I love working with kids and helping them to grow in the best ways possible. When I'm not at work or in school, I love being outside, going hiking or doing yoga. I love working at the Henry Street campus, seeing the smiling faces of your children every day!

Henry Street Campus continued...

Cristin Whiteman, Lead Big Explorer Teacher **Child Development Associates**

I joined the Winter Sun family in August 2019. I have worked at other childcare centers but am so HAPPY to join this amazing team. I have been married to my high school sweetheart Jason for thirteen years. We have three amazing children; Emma 11, Ethan 8 and Braden, 7. After having Braden we decided I would be a stay at home mom. After most of my children were in school full time, I pursued my dream job. I went back to school and received my Child Development Associates in Infant/Toddler. I have been working with young children for five years now. I have worked with all ages birth to 3-years-old. Children make working so much fun! You just never know what they are going to do or say. I enjoy making messes, getting dirty and having a lot of fun! Outside of caring for and having fun with the littles in my classroom, I love to spend time making as many memories as possible with my family. We love to go camping together! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you and your children! Thank you for allowing me to care for your precious family!



Samantha Nesbitt, Assistant Big Explorer Teacher **Child Development Associates**



I have been with Winter Sun for five months now and it has strengthened my passion for working with kids. I am currently in college pursuing my bachelor's in social work. Then I plan on attending grad school to receive my Masters. I have a passion for working with children and seeing them grow and learn and I hope one day to continue my Social Work practice with them. In my free time I love to be outside with my family and friends either hiking or at the beach.

Macy VanAppel, Assistant Teacher **Early Childhood Associate's Degree**

I've been working with kids for about five years and I have been part of the Winter Sun squad for a little over one year. I have my Associate's in early childhood education and have one semester left until I earned my Bachelor's in early childhood education at Baker College. I love working with kids because they give me an excuse to act silly. When I am not at work I am playing with my dog, enjoying all that nature has to offer or eating. I am very excited to work with all the children at the Henry Street Campus!



Kim Muskovin, Explorer Teacher

I am a mom of six beautiful children: Caleb, Ethan, Ella, Emily, Sophia and Adeline. I had the privilege of staying home with them, up until recently, and cherished every moment. They all attend Muskegon Catholic Central and are involved in many sports and activities that I have thoroughly enjoyed attending and volunteering for-do they ever keep me busy! I have a passion for music and singing and feel that expressing yourself in that way is good for the soul. I graduated from Reeths-Puffer High School and although I did not attend college, I feel my life experiences as a mother have molded me into the person that I am today; I wouldn't have it any other way! I am super excited to be on this team and be able to put those skills that I have acquired over the years of raising my own children to good use!



Henry Street Campus continued...

Sedona Young, Assistant Explorer Teacher

Certified Yoga Teacher & Health Coach

I have been involved in the Winter Sun world since I was 4 years old and have recently discovered that one of my passions is caring for infants and toddlers. I attended the Health Coach Institute and love anything having to do with health and fitness. I recently spent four months in Perth, Australia, where I had the opportunity to be an Au Pair for a beautiful family there. I enjoy yoga, the beach, cooking, spending time with family and friends and being anywhere the sun shines.



Sue Zaloga, Big Explorer Teacher

Master's Degree Early Childhood Education

I am a retired Special Education Teacher of thirty-one years from Reeths-Puffer Schools. I have a master's degree in early childhood education from Grand Valley State University. I worked with Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) students ages three to six for twenty-one years, and ten years with Early On Special Education age birth to three. I live in Norton Shores, love to spend time with my family and friends and enjoy being active. I am grateful to be able to continue my passion of working with children and families of Winter Sun!

Emma Taylor, Explorer Teacher, Student at MCC

My name is Emma Taylor and I love being on the Winter Sun team. This year I will be a senior at Mona Shores High School where I'm on the yearbook staff, a member of the choir and the manager of the varsity hockey team! After I graduate, I plan to go to school to become a neonatal nurse. In my free time I love to hang out with friends, go to the beach, attend school sporting events and spend time with family!



Reeths-Puffer Pennsylvania Elementary



Alex Evans, Teacher, Site Coordinator Assistant

BS Elementary Education & Pursuing MA School Counseling

Hello, I am a Grand Valley graduate and am currently working on my Masters in School Counseling. Working at the Pennsylvania campus has been such a gift: I get to teach art, play music, sing, dance and laugh with these amazing Kindergartners. I am looking forward to another great school year full of nature and art of all kinds! I am a Reeths-Puffer/GVSU graduate and Michigan Certified Teacher.

Julie VanderWoude, Office Manager and

Assistant Teacher

I began my journey at Winter Sun five years ago at the Whitehall Road campus, working with the Explorers and Pioneers. For the past three years I have been at Reeths-Puffer's Pennsylvania Elementary School assisting with the Winter Sun Inspired Kindergarten program. I have my cosmetology license and still enjoy doing hair. I have been happily married for twenty-two years. John and I have four amazing and very different children: Sam, Henry, Jack, and Grace.



Heather Klimsza-Zack, Kindergarten Adventure Teacher

BS Elementary Education/Special Education & MA School Admin.

Karyn Edwards, Kindergarten Quest Teacher

BS Elementary Education/Special Education & MA School Admin.



We are excited and honored to have the opportunity to work with young children in our community through this unique program that was designed to challenge children to refine what they already know and to confidently travel into developmental areas that are unknown; mentally, socially, emotionally, creatively and physically. We are Reeths-Puffer Michigan State Certified Teachers who have collaborated with Winter Sun for the past seven years, offering a kindergarten program to this community that is guided by the whole child and environmentally/science driven. We are committed to children and have a passion for uncovering the potential of every one of our students. When we aren't teaching, we can often be found spending time with our own families, supporting their extra-curricular activities and engaging in the outdoor beauty that makes West Michigan the best place to live.



"Alone, we can do so little, together we can do so much!"

-Helen Keller