

STAFF SUMMARIES

2014-15

Kindergarten: Linda Foster

Linda has been teaching in Comstock twelve years, and has had the privilege to have been in all of the lower elementary buildings. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University with minors in Elementary Education Math and Reading, and a third minor in Social Sciences. She continued in education while teaching, and received her Masters in Educational Technology from Western Michigan as well. She enjoys incorporating technology into the educational experience in all subject areas, and looks forward to doing this at the STEM Academy.

1st Grade: Jan Kiino

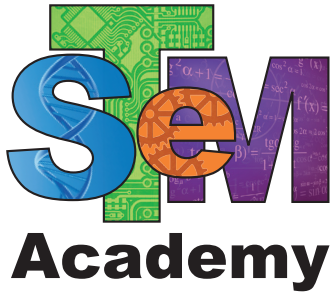
Jan has taught first grade in Comstock for 17 years, and is a Comstock High School graduate. Jan earned her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from WMU and has minors in Elementary Education, Science, and Integrated Creative Arts. She also has an Early Childhood Endorsement and a Master's degree in reading. Jan is trained in aesthetic art education, is a member of the Kellogg Biological Station, and is passionate about making the STEM program a success.

2nd Grade: Laurie Anderson

Laurie has been teaching in Comstock for 19 years; 7 years in first grade, 11 years in 5th grade, and one year teaching second here at STEM Academy. Laurie earned a degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology along with a Master's degree in Elementary Education at WMU. For several years, Laurie has been actively engaged in the K-12 Partnership at KBS, and she served on a staff technology committee. Laurie is looking forward to being part of creating something very special here in Comstock.

3rd Grade: Maren Tillman

Maren is a 2006 graduate of Western Michigan University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with minors in math, science and physical education. She received her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University in 2012 and she also earned a Structured English Immersion Endorsement for grades K-12. Maren spent 7 years teaching in Phoenix, Arizona where she taught 6th grade math, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and multi-age English language development at Sheely Farms Elementary. Maren also spent four years as a 21st Century Site Coordinator, and she spent a year as a K-8 math instructional coach and Math Challenge Coordinator at Desert Horizon Elementary. This is her second year as the 3rd grade teacher at STEM.



STAFF SUMMARIES

continued

4th Grade: Kim Sandefur

Kim has been teaching school for seven years at the elementary level. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Publishing and Editing from WMU and her teaching certification from GVSU where she is currently working on her Master's Degree. Kim is an active member of MACUL (Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning) and has a great knowledge of new apps and websites that allow her to integrate technology into all subjects. Recently, Kim attended a Kinesthetic Astronomy class put on by the Space Foundation in Colorado Springs, CO and she is looking forward to sharing many of the astronomy principles and activities that she learned with her students. Kim has completed the 21 Things for the 21st Century Educator summer course and ran an after-school rocket club for three years. This is her second year as the 4th grade instructor at Comstock STEM Academy.

5th Grade: Mary Grintals

Mary has taught for Comstock Schools for 20 years, and prior to becoming a teacher, she worked for several manufacturing and engineering firms; her favorite was GTE Spacenet, in the Washington, D.C. area, where they designed, built, launched, and maintained satellites on orbit. She started out her college career in engineering because of that job, but then she got married and moved to Michigan where, unfortunately, we don't launch satellites. Mary attended Western Michigan University's College of Education graduating with highest honor with a Bachelor of Arts in Education, with minors in English, Math, and Science.

6th Grade: Karyn Mendendorp

Karyn is beginning her 16th year in education. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from Western Michigan University, and has a Master's in Teaching from Marygrove College, and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Cornerstone University. During her tenure, she has taught grades 3rd through 7th, was an Instructional Coach, Gifted and Talented Consultant, Middle School Dean, New Teacher Leader, and Mentor Teacher. She loves to teach as well as spending time with her family, read, scrapbook, run, and exercise. She has been married for 11 years, and has two children who she says, "continually make me a better person."