

# Meet Our Teachers

2018-2019



Emma Battle is the All Day Young 5's preschool teacher in our school and has worked at Woodcliff for four years. Emma has two twin boys in sixth grade and step daughters in high school. She loves to be outside, travel, play piano, cook, and be with her family.



Amy Becker is a child care teacher for preschool and elementary after care. She generally works with preschool, kindergarten, first or second grade and had worked at Woodcliff for four years. She is married with two adult daughters who grew up and graduated from EGR. Amy enjoys playing tennis, walking for exercise, reading, traveling, and visiting her daughters.



Katie Billmeier teaches the afternoon Young 5's preschool session and has worked at Woodcliff for four years. She lives in EGR with her husband, one year old son, and two yellow labs. She loves to travel, stay active, and spend time with her family.



Rachel Bowers is a child care teacher and works with all age groups from preschool to fifth grade. She began working at Woodcliff at the beginning of June and has already proven herself as a valuable team member. She just graduated from Cedar Springs and is currently enrolled at GRCC to receive her associates in radiology. Rachel enjoys camping, and being outdoors. She played basketball, volleyball, ran track and cross country in high school, so she loves being active!



Suzie Gee teaches three different sessions of preschool at Woodcliff including both sessions of morning 3's and afternoon 4's as well. She is a pioneer of the preschool program here at Woodcliff and has dedicated 17 years of teaching service. Suzie lives in EGR with her husband. Her two children attend EGRMS and they have a Bernese mountain dog named Strider.

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Michelle Clark is a child care teacher who works with preschool daily and first and second graders for after care. She also helps during lunch time at Wealthy elementary. This is Michelle's eighth year working at Woodcliff. She lives in Rockford and has been married for 25 years, has two grown boys and a little dog.



Debbie Klein is one of our newest child care teachers and works in the mornings. She enjoys working with children as they hold the future in their hands! She has one daughter and a granddaughter who attends the preschool program at Woodcliff.



Cathy Maki is a child care teacher who has been with the program for six years, primarily with the preschoolers. She began at Woodcliff after working 20 years for the Forest Hill School District as a special education paraprofessional. She has been married to her husband Tom for 46 years. They have three grown children and two granddaughters. Cathy enjoys being with her family, and their favorite destinations are the beach and the Upper Peninsula.



Anne Noreen is a child care teacher who works with all age groups, from preschool to fifth grade. She has worked at Woodcliff for four years and has enjoyed working during the summer for our Camp East program. She has been a part of the EGR community for 40 years. Families and students have had a large impact on her work, as she is also a crossing guard for public safety and works as a paraeducator at Wealthy elementary before coming to Woodcliff.



Dani Parent has been with Woodcliff for eight years and works part time as a child care teacher. She is married to her husband Darryl and has two wonderful children, Darcy and Dyllan. They are a very active family that enjoys biking, boating, camping, and being outdoors.



Emilee Pastoor is another of our newest child care teachers who works with all age groups. She just graduated Cedar Springs and will be attending GVSU in the fall. While there, she plans to study both economics and political science. For hobbies, Emilee enjoys horseback riding and playing tennis.

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Liz Raymond is a preschool classroom assistant in Suzie's morning 3's and Whitney's afternoon 4's. She has worked at Woodcliff for four years. Liz lives in EGR with her husband and son who is a freshman at the high school this year. They love camping, concerts and their dog Dottie.



Kristin Ritsema has worked with after school child care with the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders for eight years. She also works at Forest Hills during the day as a special education/health care aide for a student. She is married to her husband for 29 years. They have two grown children, their son who lives in New York City and their daughter who is married and lives in Grand Rapids. They enjoy camping, skiing, and family time.



Brittany Rykse is a classroom assistant in Emma's Young 5's and works as a child care teacher as well. She is starting up her third school year at Woodcliff. She has both a Journalism and Secondary Teaching (English/History) degree, but loves working with kids of all ages. She enjoys reading, writing, and spending time outdoors. Brittany and her husband just celebrated their first anniversary and spent two weeks in France exploring WWII history, the best art museums, and eating the best ice cream!



Audra Shull is a child care teacher and works with both preschool and school-age students and began working at Woodcliff in March. She is a double major in film/video and theatre with a minor in writing. She has written a full length book and is working on more along with different scripts. Audra enjoys reading, writing, making videos, and learning new things.



Judy Voss is a child care teacher who works with preschool and kindergarten. She also runs the Wealthy elementary food service. Judy has worked at Woodcliff for four years. She is married to her husband Jim for 32 years and have three adult children, all graduates from EGRPS and college. One is married and she has one grandson. Judy has lived in EGR for 24 years.



Whitney Vydareny is a preschool teacher for the morning and afternoon 4's and is starting her eighth year at Woodcliff. She has three daughters that attend EGRPS. Piper is in 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Lakeside elementary, Lilly is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at the Middle school, and Bailey is a Sophomore at EGR High. Whitney's husband is an elementary school principle in Caledonia. She loves to read and do outdoor activities like hiking, biking, and "SUP"ing.

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Jackie VanderPloeg is the Director at Woodcliff and has worked in that capacity since August 2016. Originally hailing from Metro Detroit, she has been living in West Michigan since 2005 and graduated from GVSU with a degree in Elementary Education. She just began a Master's program at WMU in January. Jackie has been married to her husband Ned for six years and they have two young sons, Nash who is four and Audie who is one and a half.



Lauren Watson is one of our newest child care teachers. She graduated with a degree in Psychology/Family Studies at Cornerstone University. She is an aunt to three nieces and four nephews. She is an avid photographer and loves doing anything creative.



Ashlee White is the preschool classroom assistant for Suzie's afternoon 4's and also works as the WECC office assistant. She has worked at Woodcliff for three years. Ashlee was born in Michigan but lived in Florida for 23 years before returning to Michigan for graduate school. She just received her Master's in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University.