

KDS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff



*Seated, from left, are Jenny Bolin, Vicki Naugher, Becki Rice, and Kelli Allen
Standing, from left, are Skyler Burns, Carla James-Weldon, Beverly Stapler, Kailee
Stephens, and Cathy Textor*

Kailee Stephens as a new first grade teacher. She will also serve as the varsity cheerleading coach. A 2007 graduate of Frank Hughes High School in Clifton, Tennessee, Kailee graduated from Martin Methodist College in 2011 and Athens State University in 2017. She comes to KDS after teaching Pre-K last school year at Riverton Elementary. Kailee is married to Lance Stephens who is a KDS Middle School teacher. They reside at Grant, where Kailee enjoys photography, Disney planning, and cheerleading in her free time. Kailee says, "I look forward to working with a new age group. I am excited to see their progress and gain a love for reading!"

Becki Rice joins the staff at KDS as an administrative assistant in the Elementary School office. She is a 1989 graduate of J.B. Pennington High School in Blount County, Alabama. Becki is married to Ben Rice who is a 1994 graduate of KDS. They live in Grant, where they are parents to Sam and Evie, who are students at KDS Elementary. In her free time, Becki enjoys travel, reading, family time, church activities, and gardening. Becki says, "Having a KDS alumni husband and two KDS Elementary students, I am excited to become a part of a family so rich in history and Patriot Pride. I also enjoy seeing the students' sweet, smiling faces every day."

KDS Elementary welcomes **Kelli Ellis Allen** as a teacher of 4th grade English and Alabama History. A 1990 graduate of Cleveland High School in Blount County, Alabama, Kelli holds a BS in education from Athens State University and an MS in elementary education from the University of West Alabama. Her 15 years of teaching includes 2nd, 4th and 6th grade classroom experience. Kelli and her husband Terry live in Boaz. They have one daughter who is a 7th grader at KDS Middle School. In her free time, Kelli enjoys reading, painting, crocheting, and gardening. She says, "I am so happy to be a part of the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School. I look forward to participating in all the KDS events throughout the school year and teaching my 4th grade students of the importance of patriotism, civic responsibility, and the history of our great nation."

Jenny Bolin joins the staff at KDS Elementary as a 3rd grade teacher and will also be coaching junior varsity cheerleading. A 1999 graduate of Crossville High School in northeast Alabama, Jenny holds both BS and MS degrees in education from Athens State University. This will be her 11th year of teaching after teaching grades 2, 3, and 4 in other schools. Jenny's husband Larry has been teaching at KDS Middle for several years now. They live in Grant and have three children including one who is a student at KDS High School. In her free time, Jenny enjoys watching her daughter play softball and spending time with her family. She says, "I am excited to be a Patriot with my family and friends. I'm thrilled to be part of a school with so much history and such a beautiful campus."

KDS Elementary School welcomes **Beverly Stapler** to its staff as a Pre-K auxiliary teacher. A KDS graduate of the class of 1997, Beverly attended Northeast State Community College and holds a Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education from Athens State University. After working for a year and a half as an aide in the KDS Learning Resource Center, she is very happy to be full time at KDS. Beverly and her husband Chris are residents of New Hope. They have two children who are students at KDS Middle School and one who is at the Elementary. In her free time, Beverly enjoys spending time with family, baking with her daughters, and photography. She states, "I am so excited to be a part of the KDS Pre-K family and am looking forward to this new adventure!"

After several years as a substitute, **Cathy Textor** joins the staff at KDS as speech pathologist. A 1981 graduate of Hallsboro High School in North Carolina, Cathy earned both BS and MS degrees in Speech Language and Auditory Pathology. She has 22 years of experience, teaching in several states. Cathy has been married to her husband Richard for 30 years. They have three children, all of whom are in college. In her free time, Cathy enjoys shopping, reading, spending time with family and friends, and attending Auburn football games. Cathy says, "I am so excited to officially become a member of this awesome school team!"

Vicki Naugher joins the staff at KDS Middle School as a teacher of 5th grade math. A 1987 graduate of Satsuma High School near Mobile, Alabama, Vicki graduated from the University of Mobile with a BS in education. She has taught 1st grade, been a library/tech teacher and has most recently taught 5th grade at Douglas Elementary School. Vicki and her husband Brian are parents to a son and a daughter who are both students at KDS. In her free time, Vicki enjoys crafts, photography, and is currently learning about gardening in a container garden. She states, "The students have been great and seem eager and excited to begin the new school year. I can't wait to get to know each of them and to help them become life-long learners."

KDS Middle School welcomes **Skyler Burns** as its new physical education teacher. He will also serve as the head middle school baseball coach, 7th grade basketball coach, and assistant middle school football coach. A 2012 graduate of Boaz High School, he graduated from Jacksonville State University in 2018. This will be Skyler's first teaching job. In his free time, Skyler enjoys following Alabama football, Lakers basketball, and playing baseball. He says, "I look forward to beginning my teaching career at KDS, and I am excited to be coaching multiple sports."

Carla James-Weldon comes to KDS High School as a new math teacher. She is a 1983 graduate of Morrow High School in Morrow, Georgia. Carla holds education degrees from Clayton State University, Georgia State University, and Troy University. She has taught math in Georgia since 2002. Carla and her husband Gary reside in Arab. They have four daughters and seven grandchildren. In her free time, Carla enjoys fishing as well as all kinds of sports. She also likes to sing and play piano. Carla says, "I am very excited to be here at KDS High School."