

KDS Welcomes New Faculty and Staff

KDS DAR School is pleased to welcome new faces to its faculty and staff for the 2022-2023 school year.



KDS DAR Elementary welcomes **Sonya Hester** as Reading Specialist where she will assist elementary students and teachers as they work to reach reading goals. A 1990 graduate of Boaz High School, Sonya attended Snead State Community College then Athens State University, earning her BS in Education in 2008. She graduated from the University of Alabama in 2013 with a Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. She comes to KDS with 14 years teaching experience in the Boaz City Schools System. Sonya and her husband Bruce live in Guntersville. Their son Bo is a senior at Boaz High School. They also have a daughter, Addison, who is mom to their 2-year-old grandson, Greyson. Sonya enjoys attending her son's football and baseball games, spending time outdoors with her grandson, and camping and going to the beach with her family. She also loves singing and attended college on a performing arts scholarship. Sonya says, "I am so excited to continue my career in education at KDS and look forward to getting to know the students and teachers. I hope to help them all have a successful school year."



A 2000 KDS graduate, **Erin Carothers May** joins the staff at KDS DAR Elementary School as an auxiliary Pre-K teacher. Erin holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Jacksonville State University. After spending time as a substitute last year, this will be her first year as full-time auxiliary teacher. Erin and her husband reside in Guntersville with their sons, Ethan, who is a 9th grader, and Silas, who is a 7th grader. Both boys are students at KDS. Erin enjoys spending her free time with her family. She states, "I am so thankful to be at KDS full time now! I love DAR School, the staff and this wonderful community, and I am looking forward to a great year!"



KDS DAR Elementary School welcomes **Claudia Taylor** as a 2nd grade teacher. A 2017 KDS graduate, Claudia recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Jacksonville State University, and this will be her first year to teach. She lives in Grant with her three cats a new puppy named Tank. In her free time Claudia loves to dance, work out and hang out with her family and friends. About her return to KDS as a teacher, she says, "I am so excited to be a Patriot again! I grew up here and I can't wait to be back home as a teacher!"



Kaci Robinson joins the KDS Elementary School staff as a paraprofessional. A 2018 KDS graduate, Kaci is currently enrolled at Northeast Alabama Community College, working toward a degree in medical assisting. She and her husband, Tommy Robinson, live on Gunter Mountain with their daughter, Ryleigh, age 3, and son Connor, age 1. In her free time, Kaci enjoys reading, spending time with family, binge-watching favorite TV shows, and hiking. She states, "I am excited to be a part of the staff at KDS Elementary. I look forward to getting to know the students and staff."



Brittany Guffey also joins the staff at KDS Elementary as a paraprofessional. A 2013 graduate of Pisgah High School, Brittany previously worked at New Life Christian Academy. She and her husband, Wayne Guffey, reside in Grant with their 7-year-old son, Draken, who is a second grader at KDS Elementary School. In her free time, Brittany enjoys spending time on the lake with family and friends and traveling. She states, "I am so excited to be a part of the DAR Elementary School family and am looking forward to a great first year!"



Class of 1985 KDS graduate, **Vicki Smith Hall**, joins the staff of KDS Elementary School as a paraprofessional K-2. She brings with her many years of experience as a director of the Children's Ministry, Sunday School teacher, and VBS teacher at Grant First Baptist Church. Vicki and her husband, Brian Hall (KDS Class of 1984), live in the Grant area. They are the parents of two daughters who are both KDS graduates; Olivia Hall Rice (Class of 2009) and Lauren Hall (Class of 2013). They also have one granddaughter, Whitlee, who is a 2nd grade student at KDS Elementary. Vicki's favorite pastime is spending time with her granddaughter; however, she also enjoys lesson planning for children's ministry activities and classes, crafting, thrifting, and music. Vicki states, "I really look forward to working with the wonderful paraprofessional team, the teachers, and especially the students. I can't wait to see them blossom and thrive!"



Daniel Palmer joins the staff at KDS High School as science teacher. He will also serve as coach of the JV girls basketball team. A 1988 graduate of Sylvania High School, Daniel holds education degrees from Northeast State Community College, Jacksonville State University, and the University of West Alabama. He comes to KDS with nine years teaching experience. Daniel and his wife, Cindy, who is also a teacher at KDS, have two adult sons, Graham and Matt, and a daughter, Ella Kate, who is a student at KDS Elementary. Outside the classroom, Daniel's interests are family time, church activities, travel, basketball, and softball. He states, "I am excited to be at KDS with my family on one campus and starting this new journey for us all."



KDS Middle School welcomes **Cindy Palmer** to its staff as physical education teacher and middle school softball coach. A 1995 graduate of Section High School, Cindy holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education K-12 from Athens State University, as well as collaborative teaching degrees from Alabama A&M University and the University of West Alabama. She comes to KDS with 22 years teaching experience in Jackson County. Cindy and her husband, Daniel, who is also a teacher at KDS, reside in Scottsboro with their daughter, Ella Kate, a student at KDS Elementary. In her free time, Cindy enjoys family time, church activities, raising puppies, University of Alabama sports, golf, and working out. She states, "I am super excited to be a part of the KDS family!"



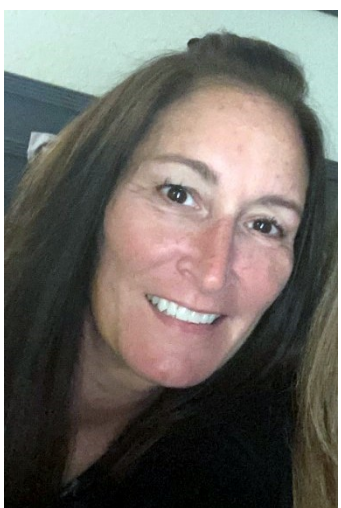
Mallory Breedwell comes to KDS Elementary as a Pre-K auxiliary teacher. A 2017 graduate of Albertville High School, Mallory holds an Associate Degree in Science and is currently enrolled at Athens State University to earn a Bachelor Degree in Education. She previously worked at Albertville Intermediate School as a full-time substitute teacher, and joined the KDS Pre-K staff in January of 2022. She resides in Albertville. In her free time, Mallory enjoys spending time with family and camping. She states, "I am so excited to be able to continue at KDS Pre-K and looking forward to a great year!"



Felicia Foster joins the staff of KDS Elementary School as a teacher's aide in the Learning Resource Center. A 1997 graduate of KDS, Felicia has spent the past 6 years as a very active substitute teacher at KDS. Felicia and her husband James Allen (KDS Class of 1989) have two sons, one of whom is a freshman at KDS High School. They also have one grandson who is 2 years old. They reside in Grant. Spending family time and being an active "band mom" is how Felicia enjoys most of her free time. She also thinks "grand kids are the best thing ever!" She states, "I am so excited to be here this year. These kids have a special place in my heart and I truly love learning from them!"



KDS DAR Middle School welcomes **Wendy Holmes** to its faculty as STEM teacher and robotics coach. A 1988 graduate of Guntersville High School, Wendy holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of Alabama, a Master of Arts in Divinity from Louisville Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She has taught computer science, biology, and anatomy at Cleveland High School in Blount County the past four years. Wendy and her husband, Sean, live on Gunter Mountain. Outside the classroom, Wendy's interests include science fiction books, quilting and the world of Harry Potter. She states, "Having come from teaching more life science than computer science, I am excited to be teaching all STEM classes at DAR Middle, including robotics, maker science, computer science, and audiovisual arts!"



Cathy Reopell joins the staff at KDS DAR Elementary as an auxiliary teacher in a Pre-K classroom. A 1986 graduate of Torrington High School in Connecticut, Cathy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics, with a Minor in Sociology, earned in 1990. Prior to coming to KDS, she worked as a substitute teacher and a classroom student aide. Cathy has one son, Ryan (Class of 2022), who will be a freshman at the University of Alabama in Huntsville this fall. She resides in Guntersville. Cathy states, "I am looking forward to meeting all the Pre-K kids and spending the school year with them!"



Savannah Sims, who first came to KDS in January 2022 as a 4th grade teacher, will teach first grade this school year. A 2018 graduate of Douglas High School, Savannah earned an Associate Degree from Snead State Community College while in high school through the dual enrollment program. She then attended Athens State University, earning her degree in Elementary Education in 2021. Savannah's interests outside the classroom include music, hunting and fishing. She states, "I am looking forward to teaching my amazing students. Teaching children is a true passion for me."



Nicole Wallace joins the staff at KDS Elementary as an auxiliary teacher in a Pre-K classroom. A 2002 graduate of Hewitt-Trussville High School, Nicole later attended the University of North Alabama, majoring in Fashion Merchandising with a minor in Management. She resides in Grant with her husband, Daniel, and their daughters, Giuliana and Mila, who are both students at KDS Elementary. In her free time Nicole enjoys spending time with family and traveling. She states, "I am so excited to be a part of the beginning of these young students education journey! I love being part of a school that holds so much pride and history."



KDS Middle School welcomes **Clayton Daniel** to its faculty as the 6th grade math teacher. He will also serve as an assistant coach of the KDS baseball and football teams. A 2014 graduate of Guntersville High School, Clayton attended Jacksonville State University earning a degree in Exercise Science and Wellness. He is currently enrolled at the University of West Alabama working toward a degree in Elementary Education with a mathematics concentration. This will be his first year to teach. He and his wife Katie live in Owens Cross Roads with their son, Griffin, who is 8 month old. In his free time, Clayton enjoys boating, baseball and football. He states, "I look forward to teaching and coaching the kids about the things I enjoy. I am happy to be a part of a great school system with amazing coworkers."



2020 KDS graduate **Seth Esslinger**, will oversee the in-school suspension classroom at KDS High School and will serve as a volunteer football coach. This will be his first year working in a school setting. In his free time, Seth enjoys photography, cooking, sports, music, and community service. He states, "I am beyond blessed to be a part of the staff here. It's going to be a great year! Go Patriots!"