

Donna Christophersen

After earning a BSE in computer engineering from University of Michigan, Donna worked for the US Navy until she and her husband Eric began raising their family, which currently consists of 6 children (ages 14 to 30), 3 “daughters-in-love,” and 1 granddaughter. In addition to 25 years of home education experience teaching students of all ages, she completed her MA in Education at George Washington University in 2011. Passionate about problem solving and helping others gain insight and understanding, Donna most enjoys encouraging parents on their journey, teaching high school math through Pre-Calc, and coaching students as they clarify their calling before entering college or the workforce.

Jeani Coleman

Jeani Coleman has directed all types of theater including Children's, Children's Musicals & Dramas, and traditional theatrical productions. She has been in theater as an actress and director for over 40 years and has been teaching theater classes, speech classes, and directing plays for over 25 years. Many of the classes she has taught include Improvisation, which she believes is the essence of all successful acting and communication. In addition to her love for drama and theater, she has enjoyed cooking from the time she was in college and has developed her own style of cooking and baking from "scratch." She is an avid promoter of food preparation from whole and natural foods. Her culinary experience includes baking for a restaurant, weddings, and special occasions. Jeani learned to bake bread from a bread baker when she while a freshman in college and continues to bake nearly all her family's bread and for friends and for special occasions and events. She is also known as a “pastry chef” to include specialties like pies, cakes, bars, and cookies, all made from scratch. She has recently been experimenting with gluten free recipes. Jeani has brought her skills to HTS by teaching cooking classes to students of all ages. Jeani and her husband Steve, homeschooled their son Jesse, who is a systems engineer, the Harvester church pianist, and is married to lovely Raquel, with 4 beautiful children.

James Cummins

After completing a post-high school US Army enlistment (that included a year's combat tour in Vietnam), Jim used the GI Bill to attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. There he received a BA in Geography with a minor in Military History. Returning to the Army he became a Terrain Analysis Warrant Officer which relied heavily on analyzing historic, cultural, military, and environmental factors concerning various strategic areas of operations. Military retirement in 1999 brought him to NoVa to start a second career as an Intelligence Community contractor, continuing to apply the same analytical skills utilized since college. Jim has three children, two of whom are HTS graduates, and four grandchildren. Post retirement activities include European river cruising, battlefield treks, and museum touring.

Debbie Dosch

Debbie has four daughters whom she homeschooled for 16 years. Through the years she has taught in a variety of situations: many years at HTS, Sunday school (all ages), youth group, co-ops, Backyard Bible Clubs, church retreats, and Ladies Bible Studies. Debbie also teaches special needs adults at her church, Immanuel Bible Church, coaches high school students with special needs for job training, does private tutoring, and substitutes in public/private schools. Teaching is a delight for Debbie.

Magdalena Escalante

Magdalena Lezama-Escalante has extensive professional experience in multimedia, marketing and print design. She graduated Magna Cum Laude with honors, earning her BFA in Visual Communication, concentrating on Digital Design. Before beginning her homeschool journey, she worked as a Graphic Design Coordinator and Communications Manager at National Council of La Raza for 12 years. During that time she received numerous awards for artistic illustration, photography (Agenda Magazine), and digital illustration and design of toolkit boxes. She continues to work as an online graphic design instructor with The Potter's School, while raising her family of 3 boys, ages 3, 7, 11. Magdalena's goal at HTS is to introduce the education of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art+Design, and Math (STEAM) for preschoolers who are natural explorers and investigators at heart by activating their five senses. She also teaches the nursery Sunday school at Iglesia Biblica de La Gracia. She is passionate about using art, innovation, and technology to serve God. Magdalena is known as the mom who camps indoors and outdoors at HTS with her picnic table. When not teaching, she loves researching and finding solutions to every-day problems, working on DIY projects and has an entrepreneur heart, mind and spirit.

Amber Dzubinski

Amber grew up outside of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and graduated from Mercyhurst University with a degree in Elementary Education. After getting married, she and her husband moved to Northern Virginia for work. Amber worked as a Fairfax County elementary grade teacher for five years. After her second child was born, Amber left her teaching career to stay home and homeschool her children. She has two boys, ages 6 and 3, and one girl under a year old. Amber was a tutor for a Classical Conversations community two years ago. She currently works at home part-time as a math curriculum writer for a Christian curriculum company. Amber looks forward to sharing her passion for Math with students at HTS.

Jan Esher

Jan Esher has a Master's in Education as well as a Master's in Biblical Counseling. She taught in public education for years, helped train teachers, taught in university-level education classes, and developed her own private instruction business. She loved homeschooling her daughter, who just finished her freshman year of college. Jan now teaches at 2 homeschool co-ops, and has a private Christian counseling practice. She loves working with children, whether indirectly through counseling parents, or directly, through teaching and developing curricula that help learning come alive. Her goal as a teacher is to inspire students to be passionate life-long lovers of learning, and to know God better through all they learn.

Anna Gugliotti

Anna, originally from Peru, holds a degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago in Spanish and Italian, and the University of Chicago Graham School of Continuing Liberal and Professional Studies. While attending college, Anna obtained her teaching experience working as a tutor at the University of Illinois, later teaching at College of Du Page (Glen Ellyn, IL). Anna has lived in Europe where she taught Spanish and English. She also used her languages working for the Banking Industry in the administration of the representative office of Banca Intesa (Italian Bank) in Chicago. Living and working in different parts of the world has helped Anna understand the importance of knowing more than one language. She has developed her own techniques and keys to learn and teach a language. Currently, she is homeschooling her two children and serving the homeschool community of Harvester Teaching Services.

Gina Hamilton

Originally from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Gina Hamilton graduated from Bloomsburg University with a teaching degree. When it was time to experience something new, she relocated to Northern Virginia and has lived in the area for the last twenty years. She worked with Alexandria City Public Schools for several years and earned her Masters of Education from George Mason. Gina has had the opportunity to serve and teach in various capacities while raising her family. Together with her husband, Chris, the Hamilton family consists of two teenage boys who attend South County Middle and High School and two seven year old girls who attend HTS, a beloved golden-doodle, and countless fish. Sunny days, people, children's artwork, walking the beach, bicycling, and spending time with family and friends are a few of Gina's favorite things!

Corinne Hayes

Corinne is the wife of Harvester PCA's Senior Pastor Mark Hayes, the mother of five, and grandmother of two. Mark and Corinne have graduated their four children from homeschool. Corinne has served as the Financial Administrator for HTS for over 10 years. She has also taught Bible classes at HTS, Sunday school at Harvester, and served in the infant nursery for 25+ years. Her dream ministry would be to hold and love on needy babies in a hospital nursery—she never in a million years considered that her launching pad would be with the birth of her first grandchild! Corinne is frequently seen and heard in the hallways of HTS giving the clarion call "Study Hall or Class, People!"

Craig Hubler

As the founder and chief instructor of Martial Arts Ministries, Craig is committed to teaching Tae Kwon Do from a Christian worldview void of all Eastern philosophy. He is a third degree Black Belt and has spent the last 17+ years training. With a B.S. in Health and Physical Education, he keeps safety and effectiveness as a priority during all classes. Having taught for over 12 years, he has experience with a wide range of age groups (3-60 years) and enjoys children and adults alike. His goal is that the students will enjoy the challenge and learn perseverance, diligence, and the joy of working with excellence toward the goal.

Stacey Ipsan

Stacey Ipsan graduated from The College of William and Mary in Virginia with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. After ten years in the world of broadcasting and journalism, she retired to stay home with her family. She and her husband of 25+ years, Michael, have homeschooled all four of their children. Cycling through American Literature, Shakespeare, British Literature, and World Lit, Stacey looks forward to her next year at HTS, studying the classics through a Biblical perspective and sparking in her students a passion for and enjoyment of great literature.

Emily Kriebel

Emily grew up in State College, PA and graduated from Penn State University in 1981 with a degree in Rehabilitation Counseling. During her college summers, she counseled at Pioneer Girls camps in Arizona and Ohio, which led to a job as house mother to 5 little girls at the Presbyterian Home for Children in Black Mountain, NC. While working in NC, she met her husband Wayne at a wedding in State College. They began a long distance courtship, which eventually led to marriage, seven children, and a 20+ year home school adventure. As a family they have been through many dangers, trials, snares, and joys, and the Lord has shown Himself faithful all the way, in spite of their many imperfections. Emily got her feet wet teaching Shurley Grammar for 3 years at HTS and then discovered the wonderful IEW program. She loves getting to know the HTS families and looks forward to a new year of writing adventures!

Jennifer McMahon

Jenny is an Army wife, proud mama to her daughter, Murphy-Cait, and recovering public school teacher. Jenny attended Frostburg State University, double majoring in English and history, with the intention of attending law school. While taking Education 101 in an effort to fulfill a missing elective prior to graduation, Jenny fell in love with teaching. (This will come as no surprise to those who know her to be a Type-A perfectionist with a ~~bossy~~ assertive nature!) She remained at FSU for a fifth year to earn her education degree graduating with a BS in English Education. Jenny also met and fell in love with her husband Sean while attending Frostburg. While Sean continued onto law school in Baltimore, Jenny began her teaching career in Bel Air, Maryland—accepting her first teaching position at the same middle school that she attended as a young student. Jenny began her graduate degree at Johns Hopkins University and completed her MEd at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, after marrying Sean and relocating with the Army. Jenny specialized in teaching gifted students and coaching both sports and academic clubs for close to twenty years in both public and Department of Defense schools. After much consideration, she left the classroom three years ago to homeschool Murphy-Cait. Jenny's favorite things include debating with her husband, reading all kinds of books, learning alongside Murphy-Cait, walking along the ocean, travelling to new places, spending time with family and friends, and savoring a good cup of coffee... with a German pastry, please.

Annie Nardone

Annie Nardone is a teacher of young minds, a lover of literature and the arts, and a culinary enthusiast who delights in finding the extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary, taking every opportunity to share her passion for culture, history, and the arts with everyone around her. She sees art museums, Civil War battlefields, colonial graveyards, primary sources, and bizarre food markets as sources of infinite education and possibility—the world is too vast and fascinating to be taken for granted. Having obtained her B.S. in Art and Graphic Design at the University of Wisconsin, Annie has homeschooled her three children, Chloe, Isobel, and Lex since her eldest began preschool in 1995. Since then, she has spent over ten years teaching enrichment classes in science, art, critical thinking, and the humanities at HTS. Annie's newest adventure is pursuing a Master Degree with the University of Houston. She most recently wrote and photographed a historically accurate cookbook that is published by Bright Ideas Press as a companion volume to *The Mystery of History II*. Annie makes her home in northern Virginia with her husband Sonny and her two younger children, four leopard geckoes, a fish, and an infinite number of books and cats.

Isobel Nardone

Isobel Nardone is a college freshman attending Northern Virginia Community College. Her passion has always been art, writing, and especially teaching. She has been a teacher's assistant ever since middle school, where she discovered her love for the arts. She has attended two years of TeenPact leadership camps and three years of HSLDA's Generation Joshua leadership and government camps, where she gained experience in journalism and foreign and domestic policies. You usually find Isobel with paint on her hands, and she will readily share a cheesy pun. Her favorite animals are cats, of which she has six.

Lucy North

Lucy North graduated from Texas A&M University with a BS and MS in Health and Health Education, with undergraduate concentrations in Biology and Chemistry. After 5 years of working in clinical oncology research, she left the working world to move across the country with her Army officer husband (the first of five states, so far) and start a family. They have been married eight years and have three boys, ages 7, 5 and 2, and one aged, world-weary dog. She is looking forward to starting the homeschooling journey with her sons and looks forward to sharing the excitement and wonder of the physical sciences with students at HTS.

Anne Pinkstaff

Mrs. Pinkstaff has been teaching science to homeschooled middle and high school students for over 10 years. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Biology from East Carolina University, and a Masters Degree in Biotechnology from Johns Hopkins University. Anne worked as a lab manager for Genetic Therapy, Inc. and Human Genome Sciences prior to leaving the workforce to raise her family. She homeschools three daughters, ages 15, 12, and 8.

Elaine Porter

Elaine graduated from George Washington University in D.C. with a degree in Electrical Engineering, and from St. Thomas Aquinas College in N.Y. with a degree in Mathematics. She worked as an engineer at the Naval Research Laboratory for 15 years. After marrying her husband, Bill, she resigned to raise her three children (Ariana, Nikolas, and Leon). The Porter children attended Trinity Christian School (TCS) in Fairfax until three years ago. Elaine and her husband are homeschooling their sons, while daughter Ariana currently attends WSHS. Elaine taught AP Calculus, Statistics, Pre-Calculus, and Algebra at TCS and Northern Virginia Christian Academy (NVCA) in Fairfax for 13 years and has operated her own tutoring business for 15 years. She has discovered a deep love for teaching math, and believes that this is God's plan for her. Elaine grew up in Nyack, NY, and in Greece. As a result, Elaine speaks, reads, and writes fluently in the Greek language. She holds a first degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do and works part time at Elite Martial Arts in Springfield. She teaches Sunday School and co-chairs the Missions and the VBC committees at her church, St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church.

Mike Said

Mike received his BS in Engineering from California State University Fullerton and a Master's Degree in Management from Florida Tech. He has worked as a Systems Engineer and Test and Evaluation of Systems professional for the Department of the Navy. Mike desires to instill a knowledge and interest for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for junior high and high school students. Mike's goal at HTS is to use an Introduction to Engineering class to interest youth in the applied sciences and show them the art and science of building things to make people's lives better. Mike has been married to Paula for over 30 years and they have three children and one grandson, all of whom were homeschooled at some stage in their education. Mike is also a deacon at Harvester PCA and has been involved with other HTS ministries, including serving as HTS' Boy Scout Troop 1318's first ScoutMaster.

Cathy Stone

Cathy Stone is the wife of Bob, a retired Army officer, and the mother of five children and grandmother of three boys and two girls. Cathy met her husband at the University of Florida (GO GATORS) where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Broadcast Journalism. She and Bob have been married for over thirty years and during that time have been stationed abroad and up and down the east coast. She's been a member of Harvester PCA for 15+ years and involved in HTS for many years. She loves teaching children, and homeschooled all five of her own. Her passions in life are her family, drama, college football, hockey (GO CAPS), and coffee.

Jennifer Tricarico

Mrs. Tricarico has three children whose ages range from high school to early elementary. She has taught or co-led womens' Bible studies for over 6 years and has also taught Bible to toddlers up to 8th graders between her church and our HTS community. She is an avid student of the Word herself, completing in-depth studies of almost every book of the Bible over the past 15+ years. Jennifer's passion is prayer for and with youth. Further, Jennifer has had the great privilege of using her gifts in photography and graphic arts to bless yearbook production teams when her children were in private Christian schools and for the years they have been homeschooling with the HTS community. As the "Tools for Successful Math" instructor, Jennifer's zest for life and learning will make even the resistant math student look forward to math games and drills! Jennifer has a Rock-Star drummer for a husband (really), a spoiled dog, and a weakness for all things chocolate. She drives to HTS with too many bags all the way from Fairfax, VA. Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Science in Psychology with a minor in English from Virginia Tech.

Paige Turner

Originally from California, Paige and her husband John moved to Virginia after their wedding in 2003. Paige worked in Data Management for Clinical Trials for 8 years with NIH and for 4 years at Stanford University. Her background is in Biochemistry and she received her BS from California Polytechnic State University. While science has always been a passion for Paige, she turned her entire focus to her growing family in 2008 with the birth of her eldest son. Paige is now a mother of three and has been homeschooling her children for 7 years. She loves working with children and teaches Sunday School and directs the Children's Musical at South Run Baptist church with great enthusiasm. She loves using music to teach children about the saving grace and love of Jesus and will continue that endeavor as the music director for VBS at SRBC.

Mark Van Gilst

Mark C. Van Gilst retired as a career Federal civil servant from the United States Air Force with 36 years plus of service plus over 4 years as an active duty officer with the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He worked as an engineer and also as a logistics manager for the Air Force, repairing and maintaining various aircraft, engines, and other systems. Also while in the Air Force, he held a number of senior positions. He has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, a Master of Science in Engineering Management for University of Missouri – Rolla, and a Master of Science in Management of National Strategic Resources from Industrial College of the Armed Forces, National Defense University. Mark and his bride Carol married in 1977 and they have three children and two granddaughters. Why he wants to teach: tell the children the Gospel, to teach and model what it means to have a personal relationship with God, and a desire for his students to accept Jesus as their Savior with each student having an active personal relationship with God. His approach is to teach how real science, math, history, etc., all show that God does exist and the Bible is true. Romans 1:20. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.”

Susan and Richard Yates

Susan and Richard Yates both attended the University of North Florida where they studied fine arts. Susan received a Bachelor of Arts in Photography and Art History. Richard received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Together they have combined their creative talents to operate their graphic design studio in Alexandria since 2002. Both Susan and Richard are also exhibiting artists in the area. They currently homeschool their son and have been a part of the HTS community since 2014. Together they bring a unique set of skills from their professional experience in the creative services industry and the fine arts to teach and inspire students to become successful artists.