## **Mid-Metro Academy Teachers**

Mid-Metro Academy connects homeschooling families to talented teachers. When you outsource subjects to our caring and capable instructors, your students are in good hands!

**Adler, Sandy.** Sandy has AA degrees in Fine Arts and Graphic Design and a B.A. in Christian Education. She and her husband, Dan, lead Heart of the City Ministries, a non-profit worship ministry dedicated to fostering racial and denomination unity among Twin Cities Christians, and operate the Music Factory venue in Anoka. Together, Dan and Sandy have recorded multiple music CDs. She has taught art for over 20 years.

**Beck, Suzann.** Suzann has a BFA degree and continues to pursue advanced education in portraiture. She serves as the Minnesota Ambassador for the Portrait Society of America. She is an award-winning portrait artist who works in oil and pastel.

**Brist, Miranda.** Miranda holds a B.A. in Sociology and an M.A. in Migration Studies, which she earned in South Africa. She is passionate about world cultures and languages and studied Hindi for two years at the U of M. Miranda has worked in the natural healthcare field for over 20 years and practices as a Clinical Herbalist at her own clinic, Northwoods Natural Wellness Center in Champlin. Miranda is the cofounder and director of Mid-Metro Academy, where she teaches Geography.

**Chryst, Theresa.** Theresa holds a B.S. degree in Elementary Education and a M.A. in Education. She taught public school for nine years and then homeschooled her children for nineteen years. Theresa is active in her parish, especially in youth and family ministries.

**Cisewski, Josh.** Josh is a professional filmmaker and storyteller who earned his AA in Theater and B.A. in English and Creative Writing. He was homeschooled during high school. In addition to working in the industry, he teaches filmmaking to youth.

**Collins, Dan.** Dan has been teaching guitar since his days as a student at North Central University. He continued teaching and church worship ministry in Chicago in 2008 and when he returned to the Twin Cities in 2019. His background includes rock, pop, classical, blues, and worship music.

**Delisi, Leigh.** Leigh Delisi graduated with a B.S. in Accountancy and went on to earn an M.A. in Education. She taught mathematics at the college level in Illinois, where she was awarded Teacher of the Year. Since 2015, she has enjoyed teaching math to homeschoolers.

**Hickle, Ethan.** After graduating from home school, Ethan attended Free Lutheran Bible College. He has directed drama programs for five years and works with Never Along Coaching, a business consulting service that offers Virtual Assistant Training to teens and adults.

**Hope, Rebecca.** Rebecca graduated from Bethel College with a B.A. in Language Arts/Secondary Education and the U of M with a Master's in Literature. She worked in marketing, advertising, and healthcare for several decades and homeschooled her five children. She is an Adjunct English Professor at the University of Northwestern—St. Paul. Rebecca has won numerous awards for her writing in multiple genres, including memoir, short fiction, contemporary novella, historical novel, nonfiction, and poetry. She is the cofounder and Executive Director of Mid-Metro Academy.

**Jorgensen, Rebekah.** Bekah holds a B.A. in German and a Master's in Education. A woman of multiple talents, she has taught a wide range of classes to homeschoolers, runs a music studio, and plays the organ at her church.

**Kelly, Kay.** Kay holds a B.S. in Biology and Bible from the University of Northwestern—St. Paul where she conducted cellular biology research. She has been teaching homeschool science classes for over fifteen years. She is active in children's ministry at her church and has four children who are still at home.

**Lawrence, Myndi.** Myndi holds a B.A. in Speech Communication for Texas A&M. She has held multiple ministry and homeschool leadership roles over the years. She is active in a local co-op and dance studio and is a staff member at her church.

**McAlpine, Sheila.** Sheila graduated from the Culinary Arts program at Hennepin Technical College and received the ASL Studies Certificate from St. Paul Technical College. She is passionate about cooking and ASL, which she has been teaching to homeschoolers since 2008.

**Miller, Bob.** Bob received a B.A. in Psychology and worked in full-time Christian ministry for ten years. For two decades, he performed as a professional magician in restaurants, parties, and company/nonprofit events. He is also a memory expert and teaches memory skills to students and adults.

**Paschen, Chris.** Chris has worked in communications technologies for over 30 years. He has taught computer technology at the college level and has his own online communications company. He is also active in youth ministry.

**Plotts, Ana Grace.** Ana Grace is a native Spanish speaker. She earned her Master's of International Management and her MBA. She loves learning about other countries and has traveled to over 25 countries around the world. The mother of six children, she is still actively homeschooling. She has taught Spanish to homeschoolers since 2017.

**Racer, David.** Known as "America's Civics Teacher," Dave Racer has been active in politics for decades. He just completed his twenty-fifth year of leading his unique Student Senate program, which he developed to give teens a true-to-life civics experience. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he earned his Master's degree in 2009. He has authored and/or co-written dozens of published books on healthcare and government policy. He has served on numerous nonprofit boards.

**Ray, Joseph.** Joey competed as a world-class gymnast before earning his DDS degree. Now on leave from dentistry, he coaches at a local gymnastics studio and dances any time he has the opportunity. He is active in Christian ministry as a pastor and Bible teacher.

**Reandeau, Dawna.** Dawna has homeschooled her seven children. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in sociology from the University of Minnesota.

**Rieks, Gary.** Gary earned a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and a Master's in Computer Science from the University of Iowa. He is semi-retired from his work as a management consultant, which gives him more time to pursue his hobbies, including photography and writing. He has an impressive gallery of nature photography and has published a fiction book for middle-grade readers. Gary has taught photography for community ed and has been active as a Boy Scouts leader.

**Sandberg, Victoria.** Vicky obtained a B.A. in Geography, a J.D., and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry—all from the University of Minnesota. Before joining MMA, she taught at in numerous settings, including private high school and community college. She brings a wide variety of teaching and life experience to her work and brings an unflagging sense of awe and wonder for the world to her classroom.

**Sheridan, Kathleen.** Kathleen earned a degree in Secondary Spanish and taught Spanish for eighteen years. She left the Spanish classroom to pursue her passion for origami. As the owner of Origami and You, she teaches children and adults the art of paper folding. She serves on the board of Origami USA.

**Thoreen, Andrew.** Andrew holds a B.A. in music and plays multiple instruments. He has taught music to children and adults for over twenty years and serves as the worship music director at his church in East St. Paul.

**Velasquez, Carissa.** Carissa earned her AA in Graphic Design and has worked in the field for fifteen years. She homeschools her three daughters and was homeschooled herself.