



# CITY KIDS SCHOOL

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**Meet the Teachers**  
**2016-2017**

# Sheryl Nelson

Director

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Welcome to City Kids School (CKS). Our school has been excelling in educating preschool age children since 1998; and since 2008, we have offered the same excellent education to students in kindergarten.

CKS considers the early years the most important period of development in a child's life. A child's work is their play, and therefore children learn best when they engage in activities that encourage choice making, exploration and discovery, hands-on experiences, and authentic learning opportunities. Within our educational structure is the framework to come alongside parents in their efforts to raise children of strong character who will become world-changing young people.

We invite you to join our school community; join us in a journey of excellence and virtue. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact me by phone or e-mail. I look forward to meeting you!



Sheryl Nelson, MIT  
School Director

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# Kristy Lara

## 2's Lead Teacher

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It is such a privilege to introduce children into the school environment—that's my job! I have an earned CDA (Child Development Associates) and love to keep learning. I have a sense of humor, love to guide children to new discoveries, am teachable, enjoy interacting with parents, and love God with all my heart.

My classroom is colorful, fun, and safe for the inquisitive 2-year-olds. We have age-appropriate activities that invite a child to play and learn through hands-on activities.

One of the most exciting things in my classroom is watching children learn through play. It is not hard—it's natural. I love to put a new activity out and watch as the children discover it, test it out, play with it, and get ahold of the "concept" without even trying.

My favorite verse is Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



# Malia Isenhardt

## 3's Lead Teacher

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Hello, my name is Malia Isenhardt. Teaching young children is the most fun and fulfilling profession I can imagine for myself. I love what I get to do every day because it is always an adventure! I am a graduate of the University of Washington where I earned my Bachelor of Art degree in Sociology; and also a graduate of Hillsong International Leadership College in Sydney Australia where I earned a certificate of Pastoral Leadership/Children's Ministry. Most recently I got to use my passion and skill as a Children's Pastor for five years.

There is nothing more thrilling than to walk beside children as they discover more about the incredible world around them. Learning should be an adventure filled with curiosity, playfulness, creativity, laughter, and music. My goal is to create a classroom environment where children will experience God's unconditional love and develop a passion for learning at an early age.

Joining the outstanding team at City Kid's School has been a dream come true! I love the community of staff and parents who I get to partner with in seeing children learn and grow in their gifts and become who God has made them to be.

One of my favorite scripture verses is Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG) God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.



# Melody Lynch

## 3's Lead Teacher

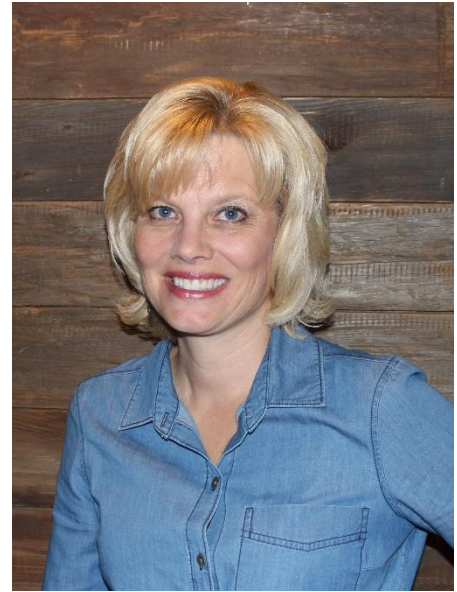
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Hello, my name is Melody Lynch. I am passionate about early learning and sharing God's Word. I believe building a strong foundation in young children is critical to a successful future. While tailoring the teaching and curriculum to meet the needs of each individual child, it is awesome to have a front row seat as they grow, develop and learn!

I have an Associate of Christian Education Degree. Prior to coming to City Kids School, I had the privilege of teaching for 8 years in a quality preschool in Mill Creek, WA. I also served as a Co-Director within their music instruction program. I have many fun ideas to share and I look forward to being a part of each child's time at City Kids School.

I teach with enthusiasm and creativity! I enjoy relationships with both the student and their family. I love learning how each boy and girl is individually special and unique! My goal is that each new little friend will love to come to preschool because it is a fun, safe and a happy place to learn!

One of my favorite scriptures is Ephesians 3:18. May you be able to feel and understand how long, how wide, how deep and how high God's love really is...for you!



# Dina Pan

## Pre-K Lead Teacher

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Hello my name is Dina Pan and I teach one of our amazing Pre-K classes! I am a graduate of the University of Washington where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences with an emphasis on Culture, Literature, and the Arts. I also earned a Washington State Teaching Certificate in Elementary Education. Prior to coming to City Kids School I taught in the Northshore School District and at Bright Horizons.

From an early age I wanted to be a teacher. I grew up with parents who were both educators and their love for teaching inspired me. Now I feel so privileged to be teaching at City Kids School and working with such an amazing teaching team.

My goal for students is to make learning fun. I love to teach using songs, movement, repetition, and creative activities. One of the most rewarding things about teaching is watching a child have his/her "aha" moment. When a child finds understanding or accomplishes a task that they have been working diligently on such as writing a letter or number correctly I love to see the "aha" moment and this without doubt brings joy to my heart.

One of my favorite scriptures is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through him who gives me strength."



# Beth Call

## Pre-K Lead Teacher

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I'm a graduate of Bowling Green State University with an earned Bachelor's of Science degree in Early Childhood Education. I am certified to teach 3-year-olds to third grade, and I'm passionate about teaching young children.

My classroom is fun and full of life! We daily learn by using all of our five senses, especially touch. We won't just talk about something we will smell it, taste it, touch it, listen to it, and use our eagle eyes to look at it. I love color! I like to mix and match, pattern, and stripe my way through a theme or letter of the alphabet.

Every child was created on purpose and for a purpose. I love children and want them to have the best experience at school.

My life verse is Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take."



# Kerri Patterson

## Pre-K Lead Teacher

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I love teaching at City Kids School and count it a privilege to be a part of the teaching team.

I am a graduate of Seattle Pacific University with an earned BA degree in Home Economics and a Secondary Education Teaching Certificate. I have an elementary certificate from Association of Christian Schools and Slingerland Training, which is a multi-sensory approach to learning.

As you enter my classroom, you will notice I teach with a variety of learning styles, and my goal for each day is to foster a “joy” for learning that will benefit children in their developing years of school. Letters and numbers come alive with songs, dance, repetition, cheers, and creative activities!

I believe children’s early years play a significant role in the development of their self-image, outlook toward school, and eagerness to learn.

A favorite verse is Psalm 1:4. “And he shall be like a tree planted by the river that brings forth good fruit.” My goal is to plant seeds and help cultivate the soil of each child’s heart so they can grow in God!



# Lindsey Nipp

## Kindergarten Lead Teacher

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Hello, my name is Lindsey Nipp and I am thrilled to teach Kindergarten at City Kids School! For over 14 years I have enjoyed being involved in education. My Master's degree in Educational Administration from Nova Southeastern University and a Bachelor of Arts from Regis University in Elementary Education have allowed me to teach various elementary grades, middle school math, tutor, and instruct at the collegiate level.

I love seeing children excited to learn. In my classroom I strive to keep a lively, engaging, and focused setting where students find pride in learning new material. Music, movement, and manipulatives are some of my favorite ways to help students learn in a meaningful and fun way. When students enjoy learning, they are energized and hungry to learn more.

Kindergarten is such a monumental year in the lives of our children and I am grateful to be a part of it. My goal is that every child in my class would feel the success of educational progress, experience the love of Jesus, and know they are an invaluable part of their class community.

My favorite scripture verse: "Now God has us right where he wants us... Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish!"  
Ephesians 2:7-8



# Heather Miller

## Kindergarten Lead Teacher

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There is absolutely nothing greater or more rewarding than playing a role in the academic and social growth of a child at such a young age. What a joy it is to teach!

I have an earned Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Vanguard University of Southern California, and have been certified in Early Childhood Education.

I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of such an incredible teaching team where the heart and the passion is for children. My goal is to see them develop in a safe, Christ-centered, and play based environment.

In my classroom you will find an emphasis on fun. It is important to me that each child is able to find the joy in learning! School is exciting, and energetic, and I find that children feel more successful when they are happy. I also love incorporating different learning styles into my lessons so I can see how each child excels. Being able to know children in their own uniqueness, and help them thrive accordingly is a rewarding experience.

One of my favorite passages of scripture is "For He, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or imagine, according to his power that works in us". Ephesians 3:20



# Amy Strombeck

## Kindergarten Lead Teacher

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Hello, my name is Amy Strombeck and I am overjoyed to be working at City Kids School. It is an honor to work and collaborate with caring and devoted teachers that are passionate about helping children learn.

I am a graduate of Northwest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. Over the last two years I had the opportunity to student teach and substitute teach in both private and public schools. Previously, I worked in a private school in California as a teacher's assistant for grades K-8.

In my Kindergarten classroom, I aspire to make learning exciting and fun for my students. I have noticed that children find learning more appealing if the lesson is centered around something they are interested in. It is my mission to make lessons inspiring, energizing, and relatable for students. I love being energetic and showing the students that they can have fun while still learning something new.

My favorite scripture verse is: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12). I want my students to step into a joyful environment every day. I want to teach them to be patient with their peers and the struggles that can come with learning. In addition, I will be faithful to daily pray for my students.

