



Wesley Hedgepeth

Wesley lives and breathes the social studies! He currently teaches AP Comparative Politics, AP U.S Government, and world history at Collegiate School in Henrico County, just outside of Richmond, Virginia. In addition to teaching, Wesley advises students, coordinates his school's Model United Nations program, and serves on his school's Civil Dialogue Task Force. Wesley became a member of NCSS in 2009 at the recommendation of his social studies methods professor, and since then has presented at multiple NCSS conferences, attended Summer Leadership Institutes, represented VCSS in the NCSS House of Delegates, and served on both the International Visitors Committee and HOD Assignments Committee. In 2016, Wesley received



Krystal Kelly

Krystal Kelly is a 2008 graduate of Livingstone College with a Bachelor of Arts in History degree. In addition, she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching degree with a concentration in History Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 2010. She is licensed in History and

Social Studies grades 9 – 12 and English grades 6 – 12. Krystal previously taught AP US and AP European History. In her ninth year of teaching, she currently teaches AP Psychology, Psychology I/II, and African American History at Tallwood High School. She currently serves on the African American History Resources and Design Committee for Virginia Beach City Public Schools and as a senior project advisor at Tallwood. She has previously served as a junior varsity girls basketball coach, advisor to student council, and department chair. Outside of teaching she is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Omega Chapter. She enjoys spending time with her fun-loving one-year old daughter, Egypt.



Lori Link

Lori Link grew up in Minnesota, but moved to Prince William County in 2005 for a teaching job. 2021 marks her 24th year teaching English/Language Arts. She has taught 7th through 12th grades as well as virtual school, and is passionate about museum-classroom collaborations. She even spent a summer giving tours at a Laura Ingalls Wilder museum in northeast Iowa!



Kasey Burnette

Kasey is a fourth grade math & Virginia Studies teacher at Westside Elementary School in Isle of Wight County. She has experience teaching most elementary grade levels, and is entering her 10th year of teaching. Kasey is a firm believer in a student-centered classroom, and strives to utilize paintings, prints, and images of artifacts as much as possible to help students visualize Virginia Studies content. Outside of teaching, Kasey greatly enjoys traveling and hiking, and has been fortunate to have experiences teaching abroad in Austria and China.



Miriam Thorpe

Hi! My name is Miriam Thorpe. I am excited to serve. I have been a teacher for over 30 years. I have a wide experience in education from pre-k to 12th grade. I am a wife, mom and grandma. I am passionate about history and igniting our young people about history. I presently am teaching middle school in Henrico County.



Paige Barlow

Paige Barlow is a 4th grade teacher at Swift Creek Elementary School in Chesterfield County Public Schools. After growing up in Mechanicsville, Virginia, she attended Longwood University where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Education (2019) and her Master's Degree in Special Education Instruction (2020). Paige is serving her second year as the Virginia Studies lead teacher for her school. She loves creating YouTube Videos based on Va Studies curriculum and striving to have a wardrobe like Miss Frizzle. When she's not at school, you can find her walking around a museum, shopping at Target, grabbing a refresher at Starbucks, or watching Disney+ with a cozy blanket.



Jodi Larson

Dr. Jodi Larson is a veteran educator from the Midwest who is dedicated to teaching the truth in history. She enjoys supporting new and veteran elementary teachers to incorporate appropriate strategies into their classrooms. She has worked with Learning for Justice to examine American Enslavement and how it is taught in classrooms across the nation and best practices for elementary classrooms. Dr. Larson has taught at VCU for nine years in the School of Education teaching Curriculum and Instruction and Elementary Social Studies courses. She is a Residency Experience Coordinator with RTR working with elementary teachers and resides in districts around the Greater Richmond area.



Greg Ownby

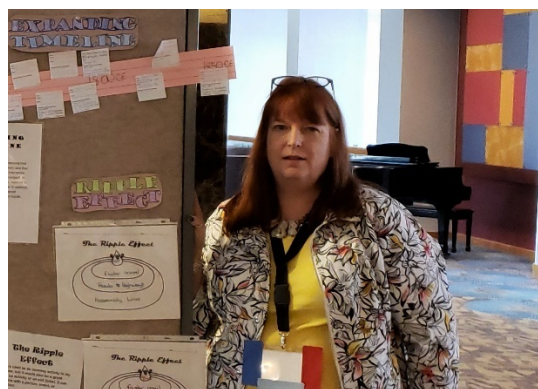
After receiving a B.A. in History from Virginia Commonwealth University and attending the University of Virginia's Career Switcher Program, Greg Ownby became a teacher in 2002 and teaches AP Government & Politics, AP United States History, and US/VA History and Government. He was chosen Rookie

Teacher of the Year his first year, Teacher of the Year five years later, and was chosen by his peers for the “O Captain, My Captain” award for inspiring and challenging his students as well as the Skydiver Award for being most likely to take educational risks with his students.



Katie LaRoue

Kate LaRoue is a National Board Certified Teacher who currently teaches AP World History Modern and World History II in the Global Studies and World Languages Academy at Tallwood High School in Virginia Beach. Originally from Michigan, she attended Western Michigan University where she earned her B.A, and is currently attending the University of Edinburgh to earn her M.A in History. She was honored in 2022 as one of the Virginia History Day Teachers of the Year from District 6 and has had the honor of working on a few projects for the VDOE recently. No crazy ideas are off limits with this 18 year teaching veteran when it comes to creating authentic, engaging lessons in her classroom where she believes in showing her students how to think critically about the world and their place in it. She is the current sponsor of the WorldQuest, National History Day, and Rho Kappa Honors Society Clubs at Tallwood. In her spare time, she is also the Leader for her daughter’s Daisy Girl Scout Troop.



Tomi Crouch

After 17 years as a nurse manager, I returned to school to become a teacher, earning a BA in English and History, and, eventually, a MA in US History. This school year will be will be my 17th as a teacher. My first six years were spent in the traditional public school setting, as well as teaching Dual Enrollment. I

have spent the last ten years in a very unique setting, teaching in juvenile detention. I currently teach all of the history sections for 6th through 12th grade, as well as GED, often in the same class. Teaching in this setting has made me a much more creative teacher, using many hands-on and research based lessons.



Monica Hammond

Since I began working in education, I've held a variety of roles including ; Montessori teacher, exceptional education teacher, case manager, alternative education teacher, English teacher, night school teacher, mentor coordinator, exceptional education coordinator for incarcerated adult special learners, and most [currently.as](#) an exceptional education coordinator for various elementary schools on Henrico's East End. I am passionate about connecting students with opportunities so they can go from where they are, to where they want to be. I'm looking forward to serving on the Teacher Advisory Council, to explore new ways to engage and connect schools with our great local community resources! Outside of school I enjoy traveling to new countries, spending time with my family, real estate, trying new Richmond restaurants, and reading a good book.



Laura Brown

Dr. Laura N. Brown I'm a VA native, and other than 7 years in OH, I've lived in VA my whole life. This is my 19th year teaching, and I teach 7th grade U.S. History at Belmont Ridge Middle School. Over the years, I've taught grades 4 - 8 and every core subject. However, my passion is history, which led me to obtain my doctorate. I'm also an active member of the VCSS (Virginia Council for the Social Studies) and participate in local community theater.



Mary McNeal

Mary McNeal is a graduate of Emory University (Atlanta, GA) with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History. She is in her final semester of a Master's in Education program through the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Mary is a licensed secondary social studies educator in Hawai'i and Virginia. She was the 2020 Hawai'i state recipient of the James Madison Memorial Fellowship. Mary is also a member of the National Constitution Center Teacher Advisory Council and iCivics Educator Network. After teaching for three years on O'ahu, Hawai'i, her husband's career in the Navy, brought them to Virginia. She currently teaches 7th grade U.S. History at Cape Henry Collegiate in Virginia Beach. She is excited to connect with other Virginia educators and continue to share important and inclusive aspects of history with students.



Deborah Koslovic

I am Deborah Koslovic and I have been teaching for over 23 years. Currently I am teaching at John G. Wood School, Virginia Home for Boys and Girls as the 6th through 12th grade History teacher. I earned a Masters in Education degree from Virginia Commonwealth University as a Special Education teacher in May 1999. I have been a life-long learner and a history buff especially in the areas of World War II and World History. My father was a World War II veteran and served as a medic in the 101st Airborne Division. He was honored by receiving a Distinguished Service Medal for saving lives on the battlefield in Europe.

Not Pictured – Wendy Scott