



Terri Gates is one of our K-4 teachers. She is a graduate from Welch College. She is married and has three children and is a member of Bethel Free Will Baptist Church. She taught Kindergarten for 18 years and 4th grade for two years. She just completed her first year in K-4. Terri has always enjoyed working with young children. Now that her children are older, she really appreciates her time with the preschool students. They fill her day with fun and laughter. When not working, she enjoys watching her children play sports.



Andrea Orton is one of our K-4 Teachers. She is married and has two children. She is a member of Midtown Fellowship. She graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelors of Arts in Education with an added pre-kindergarten endorsement. She received her Masters in Education from Cumberland University. She has taught K-4 for seven years, Kindergarten for six years and First grade for three years. Andrea grew up in a Christian home with two parents who always stressed the importance of education. Since both her parents were teachers, it is not surprising that she also wanted to be a teacher from a young age. Following this dream, she pursued a Bachelors of Arts in Education with a major in child development. The information she learned has helped her in the classroom setting where she has worked with young children for the past 16 years. She loves to learn and is always looking for new ideas to try in the classroom. She strongly believes that children should feel safe in their learning environment and that they should enjoy the learning experience, as her goal is to create life-long learners. As Albert Einstein once said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." She looks forward to a joyful K-4 experience this year!

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, running, reading, and working on art projects.



Maribeth Bender also works as afternoon teacher for K-4. She is a graduate from Aaron Academy and is a member of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church. She has worked with our three and four year olds for more than a year now. Maribeth loves children and enjoys being able to build relationships with them and to talk freely about the Lord and His amazing love for them.

Abbey Burney also assists in the afternoons with our K-4 Classes.