

## **Jennifer Nicholson**

Jennifer Nicholson currently teaches AP Calculus AB & BC at North Side High School in Fort Worth, TX, where she has taught for 14 years. She serves as the chair of the math department at North Side and she works with the FWISD Math Department to write curriculum and to support and train teachers throughout the district. Before teaching in Fort Worth, Jennifer taught in San Antonio ISD and Mansfield ISD. In her 19 years of teaching, Jennifer has taught all level of high school math, but has spent the majority of her time teaching AP Calculus. She is passionate about developing strong vertical teams that empower students in their math education to become persistent problem solvers. Jennifer holds a BS in Mathematics with Secondary Teaching Certification from Angelo State University. In her time at North Side High School, Jennifer has been recognized as Campus Teacher of the Year, as the Freese & Nichols Chair for Teaching Excellence in Secondary Mathematics, as a FWISD Teacher of the Year finalist, and as a recipient of the Bayard H. Friedman Hero award for Mathematics.

## **Christie Fish**

Christie Fish is currently a math educator in Burleson, TX working with 6th grade math as well as algebra. She came to Kerr Middle School in 2012 and her experience also includes 6th grade PreAP and 6th grade Accelerated Math. Before moving to Texas, she was a math teacher in Colorado for 16 years teaching all grades of middle school, but spent the majority of her time in 8th grade math and algebra.

Christie earned her BS in Mathematics from Colorado State University - Pueblo and has an MA in Teaching from Grand Canyon University. She has served as a department head, mentor and committee member for curriculum development in Colorado as well as in Texas.

She has a passion for teaching and for kids. She has the desire for kids to enjoy math and truly understand the concepts. She believes that students should be allowed to do math in a variety of ways as long as they can explain their methods and thinking. Math should be creative and full of possibilities-- not just memorizing facts and rules!

Christie has been married to Dean for 10 years. She also has one daughter, Breann, who is a chemical engineering major at Oklahoma State University. Her step-children and grandchildren also bring a lot of joy to our lives as well. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her family and friends.

## **Laura Grimwade**

Laura Grimwade is the Director of Research, Assessment, and Accountability for the Rockdale County Public School System in Conyers, Georgia. Prior to this, Laura served as a K-12 Math Coordinator and a former secondary math teacher, having enjoyed 10 years at the middle school level. She has been deeply involved with training educators for Standards Based Mathematics, the Backwards Design Model, and a Balanced Assessment System. Laura has presented at numerous math conferences and trainings, including the DODEA and the American International Schools in Bolivia and Guam. Laura has been a math consultant for the College Board since 1999. She holds a BA in Middle Childhood Education, MA in mathematics, and Ed.S in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University.

## **Stacy Hughes**

Stacy Hughes is a 6th grade math teacher from Burleson, Tx, working at a secondary school of choice that emphasizes gaming and coding. This school also targets non-traditional students with instructional methods and curriculum meant to meet the non-traditional students' needs. She just finished her 23rd year in education, having taught 10 years as a GT teacher in Hernando County, FL, 3 years as a mild-to-moderate learning disabilities teacher at Morrison Academy in Taichung, Taiwan, and finally 10 years in Burleson ISD teaching elementary GT and 6th grade math. She earned her Bachelor's of Science in Education from Missouri State University, her master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Texas at Arlington and an additional master's in Educational Leadership from UTA as well. Additionally, Stacy has been the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program Co-Director since 2014, which is a district-wide experiment design program in which a chosen team sends their experiment to the International Space Station. To date five experiments have been sent to the ISS, and the 6th should be sent this Fall. Stacy believes students should be driven by curiosity, but they should also learn how to handle rigor and struggle in order to reap the fruits of their labor. She uses the ideas of embracing struggle, knowing where to put your energy, and analyzing mistakes to teach students how to persist in patient problem-solving and how to persevere in math.

## **Laura Montgomery**

Laura Montgomery holds a B.S. in Mathematics and Secondary Education as well as an M.Ed. in Mathematics Education, both from Vanderbilt University. Over the past 16 years, she has taught a wide variety of 7th-12th grade mathematics and science courses. In mathematics, she has taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, AP Calculus AB and AP Calculus BC. Having also taught 8th Grade IPC, Chemistry 1, Physics, and AP Chemistry, she is very interested in the integration and cross-curricular opportunities between mathematics and science. She has served as the Assistant Head of Upper School and the PK-12 Curriculum Coordinator for an Independent Private School. However, the pull of the classroom and love for her students has brought her back to the classroom full time. She currently teaches 7th grade Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 at Trinity Valley School in Fort Worth, TX. She has taught for over 8 years in a 1:1 iPad classroom, and has served as a faculty leader in the incorporation of technology in the classroom. She has a passion for the integration of technology in the classroom and the opportunities for deeper conceptual understanding and immediate formative feedback it provides. She is a Nearpod Certified Teacher and has presented sessions at NCTM, TCEA, and CAMT over technology integration. Twitter: @lauramontyg Website: [www.montygmth.com](http://www.montygmth.com)