

Summer Arts Camp

Offered by the Stanly County Arts Council



Certified Instructors



Art: Rebekah Crisco, Drama: Wes Tucker, Music: Derek Smith, Dance: Mary Grubbs and Jesse Springer

Wes Tucker, Camp Directory and Drama Teacher: Mr. Tucker attended the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, receiving degrees in English, Theatre and Theatre Education. A prodigy of Jim Kennedy, the original West Stanly Players director at West Stanly High School, Wes assumed his teaching position at West Stanly High School when Mr. Kennedy retired in 1997. He has been teaching Theatre Arts, Beginning through Advanced Honors, for more than 20 years. In addition, he is the director of the West Stanly Players and the West Stanly Middle School Drama Club, producing multiple productions each year. He has a long record of students who have become professional theatre artists working all over the country. He is active with many arts organizations in the surrounding area, currently serving as a board member representing the arts on the Friends of the Stanly County AgriCivic Center, as well as the Miss America organization. He is a past board member of the Stanly County Arts Council, originating the Summer Arts Camp program in 2008 while serving as chair. Mr. Tucker is a past WSHS Teacher of the Year, A Time Warner Star Teacher, and Optimist Club Arts Excellence award winner. In 2016 he was named the Arts Person of the Year by the Stanly County Arts Council, for his significant positive impact on the arts in Stanly County and his diligence to support, promote, and create quality arts experiences for the whole community.

Rebekah Crisco, Art Teacher: In 2003, Mrs. Crisco received a Bachelor of Science in graphic arts and imaging technology with a minor in advertising from Appalachian State University. After graduation, she was an account executive for a printing and graphic design firm in Greensboro. Upon returning to Stanly County, she began teaching art at 2 elementary schools for 13 years. For the past two years she's been the visual arts teacher at North Stanly Middle School. She also has a studio in her home where she teaches painting and drawing classes for adults and children. In the summer, she teaches at several kids' art camps as well as Vacation Bible School at her church. In 2019, Rebekah was the recipient of Fine Arts Educator of the Year, sponsored by the Stanly County Arts Council.

Derek Smith, Music Teacher: Mr. Smith received his Bachelor's in Music Education from UNCC. Awards include the 2017 Veterans of Foreign War Teacher of the Year for South Stanly High School, Stanly County, and the South Eastern region. He was the Lead Trumpet at the Inaugural All-State Jazz Band in NC. Currently he is the Music Director at West Stanly High School: Band and Chorus in Red Cross, NC. He also is the All County Jazz Band Director, All County Winter Guard Director and the Head Soccer Coach for West Stanly Girls Soccer.

Mary Grubbs, Dance Teacher: Mrs. Mary is an instructor to AAD's young ballet, jazz, tap, tumbling and musical theatre students. Mary began her training at a young age with Albemarle Academy of Dance where she was a member of the City Youth Ballet and The Showoffs competition dance company. While training, Mary received the Dance Educators of America scholarship allowing her to continue her studies in New York City as well perform throughout the country. Mary is passionate about dance and continues to take classes to further her knowledge. She is thrilled to pass on her love of dance and the performing arts to her students.

Jesse Springer, Dance Teacher: Miss Jesse is the director of the AAD performance company, The Showoffs, as well as an instructor for all ages in ballet, jazz, modern, hip hop and tumbling. Jesse began her training at Albemarle Academy of Dance where she was a member of the City Youth Ballet and The Showoffs performance company. During high school, she was accepted to, and attended, the North Carolina School of the Arts where she focused on contemporary dance. After receiving her BFA degree in dance performance with a focus on ballet, modern dance and composition from East Carolina University, she became a soloist with the Balasole Dance Company in New York City. Jesse loves watching her students develop their joy for movement.