

Brilliant Beginnings Staff

ADMINISTRATORS

- **Mrs. Jill Brewer, Child Care Administrator**

Mrs. Jill is found all throughout the center answering questions, assisting teachers, or filling in a classroom for the day. She received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ball State University and has worked in social services settings as well as small business. Mrs. Jill resides in Versailles with her husband, Shaun, and six children, Alex, Anna, Ellie, Ben, Luke, and Josh. She enjoys reading, gardening and spending time with her family and friends. Mrs. Jill's favorite part of working at Brilliant Beginnings is being able to see the growth in each of the children here.



- **Mrs. Cassandra Lochtefeld, Business Administrator**

Mrs. Cassi can be found in her office doing paperwork, answering phones, or on the computer. She also assists in the classroom and in the kitchen. Mrs. Cassi has over 15 years of experience working with children in centers, Head Start, and home child care settings. She graduated in 2004 from Rhode's State College with an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She resides in St. Henry and loves being home with her husband, Mark, & kids, Emma, Vinny, Hans and Augustus. Mrs. Cassi loves camping, being outside with the kids, getting lost in a good book, or visiting family.



NUTRITION COORDINATOR

- **Mrs. Janet Bohman, Nutrition Coordinator/Assistant Teacher**

Mrs. Janet has worked in the human services field for 16 years. Mrs. Janet is our nutrition coordinator and likes to bake. She started working at Brilliant Beginnings in October 2016, and is also currently assisting several afternoons with the preschoolers. She and her husband Don own a farm outside of Versailles and enjoy raising their children, Olivia, Gregory, Will and Quintin. In her spare time, Mrs. Janet enjoys camping.



INFANTS

- **Ms. Brittany Ross, Head Teacher**

Ms. Brittany is the Head Teacher for the Infants, 6 weeks old through 12 months old or when they become mobile. She began working at Brilliant Beginnings in May of 2016 and loves the way babies grow and change so quickly. Ms. Brittany graduated from Bradford High School in 2013 and is currently taking classes at Edison State College. She resides in Arcanum with Jacob and son Abel (and loves to spend time with them both).



- **Mrs. Denise Cordonnier, Assistant Teacher**

Mrs. Denise is an Assistant Teacher in the Infant Room. She joined Brilliant Beginnings in August 2012. She graduated from Sinclair Community College in 2010 with an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education. She is married to her wonderful husband, Aaron, and has four beautiful children—Austin, Elijah, Hailey, and Rylee. They reside in Russia, Ohio. Mrs. Denise is deaf and communicates through American Sign Language, which she has taught to her children and to those at the center.



- **Mrs. Kathy Arden, Assistant Teacher**

Mrs. Kathy is an Assistant Teacher in the Infant Room. She joined Brilliant Beginnings in September 2016, and also can be found in the kitchen. Mrs. Kathy lives in Versailles and is married with four children, two whom are married. She enjoys softball and spending time with her family.



TODDLERS

- **Mrs. Tangie Wood, Head Teacher**

Ms. Tangie is the Head Teacher for the Young Toddlers, 12 months old till 2 years old. She has over 7 years of experience working with Toddlers and Preschoolers. Ms. Tangie has been at Brilliant Beginnings since 2013 and has a natural aptitude to the specific needs of toddlers. When not working she enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, couponing, and visiting family and friends.



- **Ms. Tonda Trittschuh, Head Teacher**

Ms. Tonda is the Head Teacher for the Older Toddlers, who are between 18 months and 3 years. She has been a part of Brilliant Beginnings staff since 2011, and has a special place in her heart for the toddlers. Ms. Tonda can always be found with a smile and a song or book. She lives in Versailles with her fiancé, Matt. They have three children—Kayla, Ryan and Jacob. Ms. Tonda enjoys spending time with her family and looking at the world through her children's eyes.



- **Mrs. Jamie Knick, Assistant Teacher**

Mrs. Jamie is an Assistant Teacher in the Toddler Room. She joined Brilliant Beginnings in February 2016, and enjoys the comical personalities of toddlers. Mrs. Jamie lives in Bradford and is married with four grown children, and has four wonderful grandchildren. She enjoys camping and spending time with her family.



PRESCHOOL

- **Mrs. Angie Huddle, Head Teacher**

Mrs. Angie is the Head Teacher in the Preschool 1 room, which is filled with three year olds and on occasion, a 2 ½ year old. Mrs. Angie has been at Brilliant Beginnings since October 2010 and has over 20 years of experience working with children. She has a special talent with making children comfortable and having fun with them. Mrs. Angie resides in Versailles with her husband, Brad, and two daughters, Miranda and Faith.



- **Mrs. Amanda Dapore, Head Part-Time Preschool Teacher**

Mrs. Amanda is a graduate of Ft. Loramie High School and has her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from Edison Community College. She's been at Brilliant Beginnings since October of 2010, and has over 10 years experience working with children in various childcare settings. Mrs. Amanda resides in Ft. Loramie with her husband Craig and daughter Kensington.



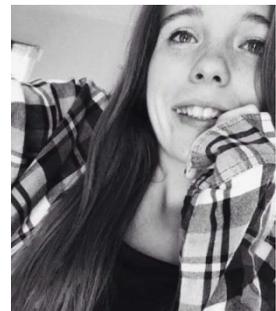
- **Mrs. Velvet Emrick, Head Teacher**

Mrs. Velvet is the head teacher for the pre-K classroom. She has an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Development and started teaching at Brilliant Beginnings in August of 2016. She lives in Greenville with her husband, Austin, and two children, Katelyn and Jensen. Mrs. Velvet loves to instill a love of learning in the children she teaches. When not busy with her family, she enjoys cooking, reading and massage therapies.



- **Ms. Kelsey Arden, Assistant Teacher**

Ms. Kelsey is a senior at Miami Valley Career Tech Center and Versailles High School. She is currently enrolled in her 2nd year in the Early Childhood Education program at MVCTC. She has been an assistant teacher with the preschoolers at Brilliant Beginnings since the summer of 2016. Ms. Kelsey lives in Versailles and enjoys playing softball and spending time with her family and friends.



SCHOOL AGE

- **Mrs. Barb Bohman, School Age Teacher**

Mrs. Barb (AKA Grandma Barb) can be found with the school agers and preschoolers in the afternoons. She assists with homework and educational, yet fun activities. Grandma Barb has been teaching at Brilliant Beginnings since fall of 2015, and enjoys the spunk the older children have. She lives in Osgood and enjoys gardening and spending time with her three grown children and seven grandchildren.



- **Mrs. Becky Pohlman, Morning School Age Teacher**

Mrs. Becky has been a part Brilliant Beginnings for several years as a floating assistant teacher for all age groups. She has been with all of the different classrooms. She lives in Versailles with her husband, Hank, and enjoys riding bike and spending time with her grandchildren.



- **Ms. Ali Westgerdes, Morning School Age Teacher**

Ms. Ali is graduated from Versailles High School and Miami Valley Career Tech Center in 2015. She is currently completing her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education at Rhodes State in Lima. She has been an assistant teacher at Brilliant Beginnings since May 2014, and was lead school age teacher for the summer program in 2016. She has worked with various age groups, from infants through school agers. Ms. Ali brings energy and fun to the classrooms she works in. She lives in North Star with her parents and 4 younger siblings.



FLOATING ASSISTANTS/SUBSTITUTES

- **Ms. Ali Westgerdes, Floating Assistant Teacher**

Ms. Ali is graduated from Versailles High School and Miami Valley Career Tech Center in 2015. She is currently completing her Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education at Rhodes State in Lima. She has been an assistant teacher at Brilliant Beginnings since May 2014. She has worked with various age groups, from infants through school agers. Ms. Ali brings energy and fun to the classrooms she works in. She lives in North Star with her parents and 4 younger siblings.

- **Mrs. Becky Pohlman, Floating Assistant Teacher**

Mrs. Becky has been a part of Brilliant Beginnings for several years as a floating assistant teacher for all age groups. She has been with all of the different classrooms. She lives in Versailles with her husband, Hank, and enjoys riding bike and spending time with her grandchildren.

- **Ms. Megan Monnin, Substitute Teacher**

Ms. Megan graduated from Versailles High School in 2014. She enrolled at Edison Community College, taking classes for pre-law. She has been working at Brilliant Beginnings since the fall of 2013, and is currently subbing with a variety of age groups. She loves the joy and energy that young children have.

- **Mrs. Freda Lochtefeld, Substitute Teacher**

Mrs. Freda has helped out at Brilliant Beginnings since its opening. She is a retired nurse and volunteers for a number of good causes. She lives in Celina, with her husband, Hank, and enjoys sewing, gardening, and spending time with her family.