

# The Monthly Hoot

Truxton Academy Charter School Newsletter Vol. 23-24 Issue 1



## Upcoming Happenings

OCT 6 - 8 The Great Cortland PumpkinFest

OCT 27 Grades 4/5/6 Field Lesson @ Beaver Lake

OCT 28 Trunk or Treat & Haunted Hallway 6-7:30pm

OCT 31 Halloween

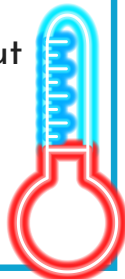


## News from the Office

Congratulations! We made it through one whole month back to school! So many things have happened in the short time we have been back. We harvested and ate produce from our garden, our pheasants arrived (watch Facebook for a chance to help us name them), we had 3 successful ice cream Fridays, and First grade even went on their first field lesson to the Cortland Train Station!

Normally this newsletter will contain news from across our school community, but this month we want to introduce on the following pages, the people your child sees every day. Look for our next edition at the end of October.

Please be sure as the weather starts to get colder that you are sending your child in with appropriate outdoor gear. We do go out in all conditions so warm outerwear and boots are recommended.



## Cafeteria Corner

TRUXTON ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL - OCTOBER 2023 MENU			
1 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	2 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	3 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	4 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
5 NO SCHOOL ON GREAT DAY	6 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	7 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	8 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
9 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	10 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	11 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	12 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
13 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	14 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	15 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	16 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
17 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	18 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	19 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	20 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
21 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	22 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	23 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	24 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
25 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	26 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	27 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	28 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee
29 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	30 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	31 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee	32 Breakfast: Apple Pancakes, Fruit, Milk, Juice, Coffee

<https://www.truxtonacademy.org/breakfast-lunch-menu>



# Meet our staff

2023/2024

## 1st Melissa Sweeney

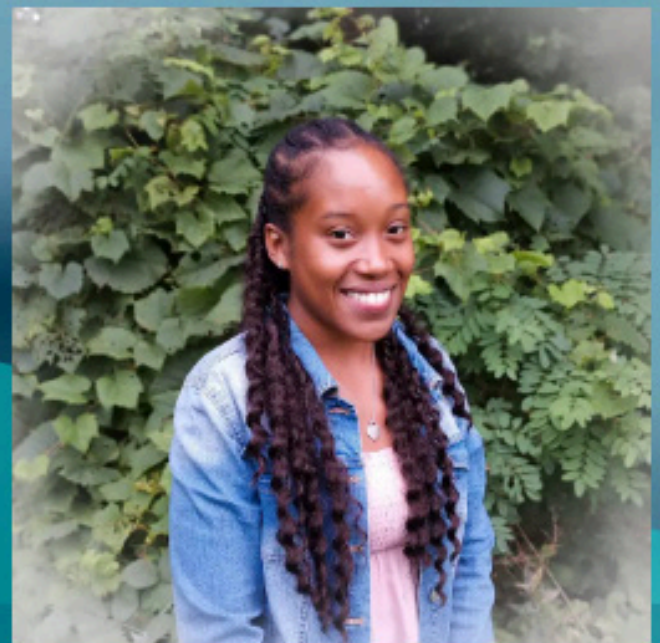


Mrs. Sweeney has a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and a Masters of Arts in Reading with a drama emphasis. She has thirty-five years of teaching experience including homeschooling, 2nd and 3rd grade combined classes, K-6 music and art, and middle school and high school subject matters including: ELA, math, Spanish, science, and art. She has been teaching in a private school for the last fourteen years. She is a mother of six ages 22 to 31. Mrs. Sweeney was raised on a dairy farm in Dryden, NY, and worked in her mother's greenhouse business growing up. She now lives with her husband next to the Sweeney farm in Cortland, NY. She is very excited to be a part of the Truxton Academy Charter School team.

## K

## Kayla Elliot

Kayla Elliott is excited to be entering her third year at Truxton Academy as the kindergarten teacher. Ms Elliott graduated from SUNY Oswego Bachelors of Early Childhood Education. Her favorite color is pink and music is jam. She absolutely love working with the little ones and helping them learn and grow. It's such a rewarding experience!





# Meet our staff 2023/2024

2nd

## Gabrielle DeFranco

Mis DeFranco grew up in Cortland, New York and attended SUNY Cortland. This will be her third year teaching, and her first year teaching at Truxton Academy. Miss DeFranco is very excited to not only teach your children, but to learn from them! She is looking forward to a great year!



## 3rd Doris Klein

This is Mrs. Klein's first year teaching at Truxton Academy. She is really looking forward to meeting the third grade students and is excited to get to know them and their families. Every student brings a unique perspective to the classroom community and she can't wait to get started. It's going to be a great year! Mrs. Klein homeschooled her 3 children who are now grown and on their own. She has been a teacher in both public and private schools for more than 15 years, teaching a variety of grades and subjects. She and her husband recently moved to Cincinnati, from Pennsylvania, with their cat, Dory. Mrs. Klein enjoys gardening and reading, and has a sewing alterations business.



# Special Education Cynthia Pratt

Ms. Pratt is so excited to be a part of Truxton Academy Charter School! As a preteen she knew she wanted to be a teacher and work with students to help them achieve their potential in school. She did her Undergraduate education at Lesley College and graduate work at Syracuse University. For the past 34 years she worked at Cazenovia College as the Director of Special Services, working with students, faculty, administrators to foster and facilitate a positive learning environment. Ms. Pratt has two children and two grandchildren, whom she loves, as she says to them, "to the moon and beyond"!



# Meet our staff 2023/2024



## 5th/6th Michelle Gerace

Mrs. Gerace, or Mrs. G, as most students call her, graduated from Mary Baldwin college in Staunton VA with a bachelor's degree, and from Purdue University with her masters in Literature and Language Arts. She spent most of her career teaching (10 years) in Virginia, and returned home to NY about 7 years ago where she became an emergency dispatcher for a few years before switching over her teaching license to be able to teach in NY again. Mrs. G has 5 grown kiddos, only one left at home, a playful dog, Dudley, and a spiteful but cute cat named Kitty. In her spare time she loves to go camping and being on the beach. She loves to read and is a self proclaimed science nerd!



# Meet our staff 2023/2024

Physical  
Education  
and STEM

Heather  
Boyden



Spanish  
and Math

Sheri Herlihy

Sheri Herlihy (Señora) loves teaching both math and Spanish. She learned Spanish while spending 18 months living in Guatemala. She is currently earning a Masters. Sheri homeschooled her children for 5 years and has experience teaching both Spanish and math at public school, private school, charter schools and college. She grew up in Southern California, lived in New Hampshire for 20 years and has been living in Chittenango for the past 6 years. She is still getting used to snowy cold winters! She has 3 children ages 18 - 26. Sheri loves being part of the Truxton Academy Charter School community!

Hello! My Name is Heather Boyden. I am the Physical Education Teacher here at Truxton as well as the STEM Coordinator. I have been here at Truxton Academy since the first year, I love the rural small school and community involvement! I am from Buffalo, LET'S GO BUFFALO!! I now live in East Homer with my husband and 2 kids! We love the outdoors - hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, camping, hiking & more! I can't wait to have another fun year!





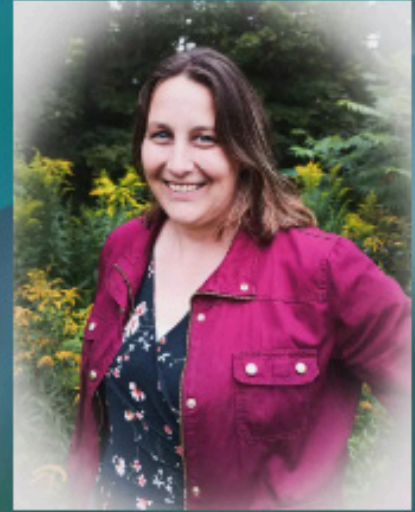
# Meet our staff

2023/2024



## Art Crystal Lyon

Ms. Crystal is a local artist and professional art educator who joined the Truxton Academy team in 2022. She loves to collaborate and listen, coming back with a brand new invention striving to continue to build positive relationships with learners through fun and engaging art-making, partnering with classroom teachers on projects, and connecting Truxton Academy with community partners through events such as Crown City Mural Fest and the Creative Cortland Art Exhibition. Ms. Crystal has her own professional art studio, Living Illusion Studio, at the Cortland Corset Building. She is also a professor at Tompkins Cortland Community College teaching foundational art and design courses as well as art courses for non-artists and early childhood development majors.



## Agriculture Jamie Smart

This will be Ms. Jamie's second year as Truxton Academy's Rural Life Lab Coordinator. Ms Jamie is also a parent to 2 Truxton students and a rambunctious Lab named Yooper they also share their home with an ever changing menagerie of pets and livestock. She enjoys cooking, gardening, hiking, and fully believes that we can all have snow much fun in the winter season. Ms Jamie is looking forward to managing the school's agriculture and nature resources, and fostering relationships in our school community to expand the classroom experience.

Art is for everyone!

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Teaching  
Assistant  
Brianna  
Gardner

Meet  
our staff  
2023/2024



Teaching  
Assistant  
Tiffany  
Ackerman

Bri Gardner is excited to be starting her third year here at Truxton Academy as the kindergarten & first grade teacher assistant. Ms Bri has three amazing kids and lives right here in our local community. She is looking forward to meeting all of you and having a fantastic school year together.

Mrs. Ackerman was introduced to Truxton Academy Charter School through her daughter who became a part of the school community as a student in 2021. She joined the school community herself and began to build positive relationships with learners as a classroom volunteer supporting Teacher of the Arts Ms. Crystal during the 2022/2023 school year. Mrs. Ackerman is excited to be collaborating with classroom teachers as a Teacher's Assistant during the 2023/2024 school year with student success in mind.

# Meet our staff

Social Worker  
Kate Shaw

2023/2024

Administrative  
Assistant

Raina Barber

Hello! My name is Kate Shaw (Ms. Kate). This will be my second year at Truxton Academy as the School Social Worker. I live in Tully with my husband, 3 kids, our Australian shepherd, & a small flock of chickens. In my free time I enjoy running, yoga, & trying to get my garden to grow. I can't wait to reconnect with our returning students and meet some new friends! It is going to be a great year!!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns

Ms Raina started her journey at Truxton Academy as a substitute, then as a teaching assistant, and now in her 3rd year as the administrative assistant. Ms Raina lives in Truxton with her husband(Shaun) and 3 crazy kids(Peyton, Nathan, and Sienna)as well as The family dog Jocco and 3 Quaker parrots( Tinker, Kiwi, and Kai). In her spare time Ms Raina is an avid reader and houseplant collector.





## Head of School Kerryanne Schenk

Kerryanne Schenk, or as the students call her Mrs. S is starting her second year here at Truxton as Head of School and is looking forward to meeting our new families as well as seeing our returning ones! Mrs S started her career in education as a music teacher in 1991 with a bachelors from Nazareth College of Rochester. Since then, She has completed a Masters in Music Education at Anderson University South Carolina School for the Arts and a Masters of Instructional leadership from Canisius College. When she is not in school she is the mother of triplets that are beginning their senior year of high school. With her family they run a small horse farm in the town of Mexico, NY. where they raise and show Arabian, miniature and Shetland horses.

