

CDA STAFF



Sarah Pieper
Artistic Director

Sarah has had the joy of serving as Artistic Director of CDA since 2012. She began her dance training at CDA in its debut year in 2001 and has continued dancing ever since. Sarah holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as well as her Pilates Mat training through Balanced Body. Sarah has performed professionally for over a decade with Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkell, Vivid Artistry Dance Co., Artistry Theatre, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, and Alternative Motion Project. Sarah serves as adjunct faculty at the University of Northwestern and choreographs the theatre season musicals. She seeks to use art as a way to create space for the Holy Spirit to bring about hope and healing. Globally, this has led Sarah to perform and teach dance in missions in Mexico, Costa Rica, India, and China. Beyond CDA, Sarah's choreography has been performed at Crown College, North Central University, the University of Northwestern St. Paul, YWAM school of dance, and a variety of high schools throughout MN. Her choreography has been showcased at the Hennepin Theatre Trust spotlight awards, and has received regional recognition through the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. She is continually inspired by the wonder of her children, the beauty of the outdoors, and a good cup of coffee. Sarah is grateful to embody joy through dance and for the opportunity to share that gift with the dancers at CDA!



Carrie Josephson
Financial Manager

Carrie has been working in the office since 2011 and brings so much to this studio with her detailed administration and serving heart! Her journey at Celebrate goes back to 2004 when her daughter began dancing. Her daughter danced at Celebrate from kindergarten all the way through high school graduation. Carrie holds a Bachelor's in Psychology from Bethel University and has served as an office administrator for many years. When Carrie is not busy keeping the office on track, she enjoys meeting up with her daughter or reading.



Mary Smith
Managing Director

Involved with Celebrate since its inaugural year in 2001, Mary is overjoyed to continue bringing instruction and discipleship to Celebrate dancers. With nearly 20 years of experience teaching dance, Mary believes that a love for movement and dance can be fostered at any age and works to make CDA accessible to everyone -regardless of ability level or background. Mary is especially passionate about our youngest dancers and absolutely loves introducing children to the joy of dancing! In addition to teaching many of CDA's children's classes, Mary also oversees the curriculum and instruction of non-level classes and leads the Teaching Assistant program.



Rachel Bonkougou
Instructor

Rachel, a native Minnesotan holds a B.A. in Dance from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She has performed with multiple dance companies including Bakersfield City Ballet, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, Rhythmically Speaking, Concerto Dance by Jolene Konkell as well as having produced four of her own evening length works. A ballerina turned jazz and modern dancer, she has also had the privilege of teaching dance to all ages and genres for the past 15 years and was the Artistic Director of Waconia Center for Dance Arts in Waconia for six years. Outside of dance, she has a growing family, a growing garden and a growing love of other creative projects including both videography and textile creations. She recently received her 200 hour yoga teacher certification and holds a level 1 certification in the Progressing Ballet Technique.

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Kelly Campbell
**Instructor and
Office Assistant**

Kelly started dancing at seven years old and grew up at Celebrate! Growing up at Celebrate she got the opportunity to student teach where she first fell in love with teaching dance. Having all of her dance training at Celebrate, she is happy to continue on her journey at the studio as an instructor. This is her sixth year teaching at Celebrate, and she is ecstatic to see what God has done at celebrate, and what he will continue to do! One of her favorite things about teaching is helping our dancers deepen their relationship with Christ through their movement. She loves to use her creativity in all aspects of her life, which can include cake decorating or working on crochet projects.



Mallory Dykema
Instructor

Mallory began her training in ballet, jazz, and modern at the Performing Arts Center in Waconia, MN. She went on to receive a BFA in Dance from the University of Minnesota where she performed notable works by modern dance pioneers and made many influential connections. After college, Mallory choreographed musicals and taught dance classes at North Central University. At Prairie School of Dance in Eden Prairie, she taught modern dance for many years. One of her most notable experiences was creating an evening length show for the students based on Psalm 139. She was a member of the local theatrical jazz company, Eclectic Edge Ensemble, for over 10 years and loved every minute of it! Mallory is married to her love, Traivis, and they have five children as well as (something she thought she'd never say) a dog, Dahlia. Mallory loves storytelling through music and dance and is excited to tell some stories with the lovely CDA dancers this year!



Lindsey Fields
Instructor

Lindsey has been dancing since she was three years old. She trained competitively in tap, jazz, ballet, lyrical, and hip-hop; as well as competing on her middle and high school dance team. Working as a teacher's assistant for her studio, this is where she discovered a passion not only for dance, but also for helping young dancers explore their full potential. Lindsay received her B.A. in theatre and dance from the University of Northwestern; she continues to work in their costume shop and helps mentor students in all things hair and makeup. She now teaches at the studio she grew up at. Lindsey has guest taught at CDA, and this is her first full year teaching tap at Celebrate. Lindsay is so excited to dive into this season with CDA dancers!



Jess Gale
Instructor

Jess began dancing at Celebrate at the age of 11 and has trained in ballet, pointe, modern, jazz, contemporary, and musical theater. As a longtime member of the Mosaics Company, she has loved every opportunity to perform on stage and grow as both a dancer and artist. This is Jess' fourth year teaching at Celebrate, where she is passionate about helping young dancers build strong technique, confidence, and a genuine love for dance. Ballet has always held a special place in her heart as the first style she trained in, and its discipline and artistry continue to influence every aspect of her dancing and teaching. Outside of the studio, Jess works as a Public Engagement Coordinator at WSB, an engineering consulting firm, where she develops communication and community engagement strategies for public infrastructure projects. She graduated from the University of Northwestern with a bachelor's degree in Public Relations and enjoys combining creativity with strategic communication in her career. When she's not teaching or working, Jess loves oil painting, reading, and spending quality time with family and friends. She is grateful to have grown up at Celebrate and is excited to continue investing in the next generation of dancers while encouraging them to develop both their skills and confidence.

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Lindsey Jacobson
Instructor

Lindsey has been dancing since the age of six and on into her college years from California to Minnesota and back! Most often in the kitchen with her husband and four children! With decades of experience teaching children, she's excited to do so with her dancing shoes ON!! Lindsey is humbled and excited to continue to be a part of the Celebrate family and cannot wait to grow together and show off God's creativity through dancing!!

Outside of the studio Lindsey enjoys crafting and all things handmade, painting and photography, fruits of the spirit, homeschooling her crazy crew of 4, and has been married to Paul for nearly 15 years! She cannot wait to meet you all this upcoming dance season!!



Myndi Lawrence
**Acting Program
Lead**

Myndi has been involved with Celebrate Dance Academy for almost 20 years since her oldest daughter started taking classes here. Being a dancer herself from age three through high school, it has been a joy to watch all of her daughters carry on the dance tradition. With a Communications degree from Texas A&M University, Myndi has taught a variety of classes in the homeschool community over the past 15 years, including writing, communications, classic literature, art history, and theatre. As a part of that experience, she had the joy of writing and directing original plays with students from age 5 to 17. At CDA, Myndi's focus is on coaching students in acting, whether through summer musical theatre camps, the annual Christmas show (which she co-writes and co-directs with Sarah Pieper) and acting classes. She recently began her master's degree and started her own theatre company, Classic Arts Theatre. In her free time, she likes to read, travel, and hang out with her incredibly supportive husband, Joel, their four amazing kids, and their mal-shi pup.



Libby Johnson
Instructor

Libby holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology from the University of MN with an emphasis in dance. She's been teaching dance for 20+ years and implemented modern dance and hip hop dance classes at Celebrate when she joined the staff in 2006. She is also co-founder and co-director of the Conservatory program and Mosaics Dance Co. here at CDA. Libby does free-lance choreography for local schools, universities and churches. She's been a guest choreographer for YWAM-University of the Nations in Kona and YWAM Lakeside Montana. Her work has been performed at the MN Fringe Festival, Project Dance NYC and YWAM School of Dance Studies. Also a singer/songwriter, Libby has released two albums of original music since 2016. Pursuing God's calling of encouraging artists at the intersection of art & faith, Libby founded the non-profit Vivid Artistry Co. for the purpose of gathering and connecting others in creative community through media, workshops, retreats and the professional dance company, Vivid Artistry Dance Co. In 2017 Libby launched the podcast "Art & Faith Conversations" which continues to be one of the leading podcasts for Christian artists all over the world. She recently completed an artist residency through the Brehm Center of Fuller Seminary where she continues to serve as a facilitator for other artists in residence. She resides in Woodbury with her husband, three daughters and their two crazy dogs, Sage and Dakota.



Krystal Prichett
Instructor

Krystal is thrilled to be back teaching at CDA. Krystal started in dance classes at 2 years old in St. Paul, MN. In the mid 2000s, Krystal started at Celebrate as a dancer and continued her dance training here until her graduation. In 2010, Krystal came on staff at CDA and has been a teacher for many years, and has been a CDA dance parent since 2016. Aside from teaching at CDA, Krystal served as the resident choreographer for a community theater in Forest Lake, MN from 2021-2024, and has had the privilege to work with a couple other community theaters in the Twin Cities area! Outside of teaching, choreographing, and bringing her boys to classes at CDA, Krystal spends her time homeschooling, hiking, knitting, reading and spending time with her 5 children and husband!