

## Kathy Collins



Kathy Collins presents at conferences and works in schools all over the world to support teachers in developing high-quality, effective literacy instruction in the elementary school grades. She is the co-author, along with Matt Glover, of *I Am Reading: Nurture Meaning-Making and Joyful Engagement with Texts* (Heinemann, 2015) and the co-author, along with Janine Bempechat, of *Not This But That: No More Mindless Homework* (Heinemann, 2017). Kathy's other books include *Reading for Real: Teach Children to Read With Power, Intention, and Joy in K-3 Classrooms* (Stenhouse, 2008) and *Growing Readers: Units of Study in Primary Classrooms* (Stenhouse, 2004). Kathy was a classroom teacher in Brooklyn, New York and maintains a long-time and ongoing relationship with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Kathy and her family live in Durham, New Hampshire.

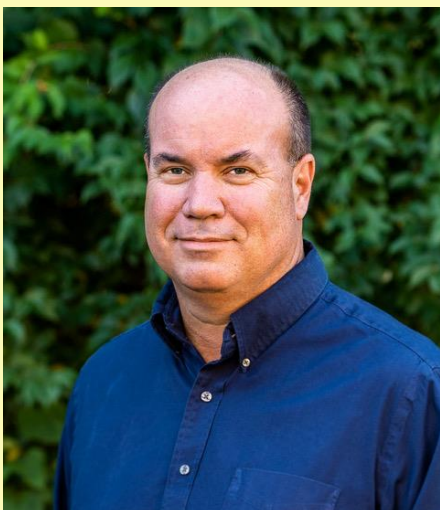
## Katie Gibson



Katie Gibson serves as the High School principal and has the privilege to partner with extraordinary faculty and incredibly mission-conscious families to keep students at the center of all we do at GDS. In her 20 years in independent schools, she has always sought communities where students are encouraged to be active participants in creating school culture and directing their learning. In GDS, she has found a perfect fit: a place where she can support, educate, and learn from our remarkable students.

Katie began her work in independent schools at Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, New York, initially as a dance teacher in the lower school while simultaneously pursuing her career as a professional contemporary dancer. Over 14 years there, she had the opportunity to play many roles and realized her passion for schools transcended the role she played in the classroom. She served as the community service coordinator, interim diversity director, new teacher mentor, and grade dean. Prior to GDS, Katie served as the upper school division head at the Ranney School in New Jersey. In that role, Katie rewrote the upper school academic handbook and a new curriculum guide, initiated the school's first Critical Friends Group, a program designed to help faculty become more reflective of their own and each others' teaching practice, established a GSA, sent a cohort of 12 faculty to Nueva Schools Design Institute, and chaired the Experiential Learning Committee. Katie is a graduate of New York University with a BS in dance and dance education. She also earned an MA in educational leadership from Teachers College at Columbia University.

## Matt Glover



Matt Glover has been a teacher, principal, author, and consultant for over 30 years. His newest book is *Craft and Process Studies: Units that Provide Writers with Choice of Genre*. He is the coauthor with Kathy Collins of *I Am Reading*, the author of *Engaging Young Writers*, coauthor with Mary Alice Berry of *Projecting Possibilities for Writers*, and coauthor with Katie Wood Ray of *Already Ready and Watch Katie and Matt...Sit Down and Teach Up*, a video enhance ebook that combines video and text to examine conferring with young writers. Along with Ellin Keene, Matt is the coeditor of *The Teacher You Want to Be: Essays about Children, Learning, and Teaching*. A nationally known literacy consultant, Matt frequently speaks on topics related to nurturing writers, early reading, and supporting children's intellectual development.

## Cornelius Minor



Cornelius Minor is a Brooklyn-based educator. He works with teachers, school leaders, and leaders of community-based organizations to support equitable literacy reform in cities (and sometimes villages) across the globe. His latest book, *We Got This*, explores how the work of creating more equitable school spaces is embedded in our everyday choices—specifically in the choice to really listen to kids. He has been featured in *Education Week*, *Brooklyn Magazine*, and *Teaching Tolerance Magazine*. He has partnered with The Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, The New York City Department of Education, The International Literacy Association, and Lesley University's Center for Reading Recovery and Literacy Collaborative. Out of Print, a documentary featuring Cornelius made its way around the film festival circuit, and he has been a featured speaker at conferences all over the world. Most recently, along with his partner and wife, Kass Minor, he has established The Minor Collective, a community-based movement designed to foster sustainable change in schools. Whether working with educators and kids in Los Angeles, Seattle, or New York City, Cornelius uses his love for technology, hip-hop, and social media to bring communities together. As a teacher, Cornelius draws not only on his years teaching middle school in the Bronx and Brooklyn, but also on time spent skateboarding, shooting hoops, and working with young people.

## Kristi Mraz



Kristi is a twenty year veteran of the classroom, author of books for teachers and a consultant in schools and classrooms across the country. She was the recipient of the Big Apple Excellence in Teaching Award for her play based classroom practices. Kristi works with teachers, schools and districts to reclaim play and joy in the classroom, honor the distinct gifts of every child, and meet standards and benchmarks in ways that increase agency and student voice. Kristine Mraz is coauthor—with Christine Hertz—of *Kids First from Day One*, which provides a practical blueprint for increasing the child-centeredness of your teaching practice. She and Christine previously teamed up for the bestselling *A Mindset for Learning*, which provides practical and powerful strategies for cultivating optimism, flexibility, and empathy alongside traditional academic skills.

Kristi has also coauthored—with Alison Porceli and Cheryl Tyler—*Purposeful Play*, the book that helps you make play a powerful part of your teaching. She and Marjorie Martinelli wrote *Smarter Charts and Smarter Charts for Math, Science, and Social Studies* to get the most out of this classroom staple. Their popular blog *Chartchums* keeps teachers in touch with ongoing and relevant classroom issues and ways to use charts as a support. *Chartchums* is also on Facebook and on Twitter @chartchums! Kristi is a recent transplant to southern California, where she will be writing and consulting until the classroom calls again.

## Jalene Spain-Thomas



Jalene Spain Thomas - is the Head of Lower School at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, VA. She has appreciated the opportunity to serve Episcopal School communities as a teacher and administrator and through board service. She was formerly the Assistant Head of School at Beauvoir, the National Cathedral Elementary School in Washington, DC. Jalene received her undergraduate degrees in Psychology and Art History from Duke University. She is a proud graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University and is a member of the Teachers College Alumni Council. At TC, she studied organizational management and private school leadership. Jalene continues to study best practices in both of these areas as well as strategic design and marketing, practices in equity and inclusion, and the optimal use of professional development and professional growth models to build teachers' capacity.

Jalene co-founded the group Administrators of Color in the DMV and provides coaching and guidance to aspiring and current school administrators of color in the Washington, DC area. She is on the board of the Mid-Atlantic Episcopal Schools Association and is vice-chair of the governing board of the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys. She has been an enthusiastic speaker on panels discussing women in independent school leadership and leadership development at all levels of private schools.

## Jennifer Williams



Recognized as a transformational leader in education, Dr. Jennifer Williams has dedicated herself for 25 years to the field of education through her roles as an education activist, professor, school administrator, literacy specialist, and classroom teacher. She speaks, writes, and consults on practices that develop global perspectives and social good through creative uses of technology, and her research interests include innovations in teaching and learning, equity and diversity in education, and social action. As an educator and author of the ISTE book, *Teach Boldly*, she champions teachers to use educational technology for social good. She is a professor at Saint Leo University, co-founder of TeachSDGs, Take Action Global, Edcamp Tampa Bay, and is the President of the ISTE Education Leaders PLN Board of Directors. Jennifer is inspired everyday by teachers and students that are catalysts for making the world a better place! Connect with Jennifer on Twitter at @JenWilliamsEdu.

## Connie White



Connie White is a visionary leader who serves as the Director of Learning Design & Innovation at Woodward Academy in College Park, Georgia. She is a former Upper School Physics, Chemistry & Math teacher who specializes in start-up innovation initiatives, strategic planning, curriculum design, assessment, professional development, brain-based strategies, and pedagogy. She has conducted hundreds of workshops & seminars throughout the country, and internationally. She is the President of AATE, which is an ISTE affiliate, writes the Education column for Southern Distinction magazine, and is a Paul Harris Fellow. Connie leads Woodward Academy's efforts in the areas of professional development, curriculum, and innovation. Connie was also the recipient of the 2016 ISTE ISEN Outstanding Educator Award and is a 2020 ATLIS Pillar Award Winner.