



Climax-Scotts Community Schools

Where Students Are More Than A Test Score!

Meet the C-S Elementary Team Family

Putting Kids First!

At C-S students receive:

- *An excellent academic experience and education that focuses on the whole child.*
- *Daily practice with increasing academic skills, improving social skills, and regulating emotions when situations arise so students can be well-rounded, contributing members of society.*
- *An emphasis on 21st century skills with real-life, authentic application learning.*
- *Preparation for college and career readiness so our students have choices for wherever their journey through life takes them.*
- *Encouragement to participate in extracurricular activities and opportunities.*

Extra-Curricular Activities plus other opportunities at C-S:

- *We offer a variety of extra-curricular activities, so students have choices.*
- *A variety of sports, Girls on the Run, Drama Club, Art Club, etc.*
- *At the Jr/Sr building, we offer Early Middle College, Math and Science Center, Dual Enrollment, National Honors Society.*

These opportunities and activities accomplish many goals for our students:

- *Attract new families so new friendships can be built.*
- *More families generate increased revenue, which can be applied to additional student and staff resources.*
- *Provides more opportunities for our students.*
- *Helps keep our students engaged in school and develop strong social skills.*
- *Improve students' academic success and enjoyment in their overall K-12 school experience.*

Office Team:



Teri Peters; Principal
teri.peters@cssschools.net

I became a principal because I enjoy working not only with students to assist with their learning, but also with teachers to support them in their work with students. I enjoy collaborating with parents and being able to offer a calm, respectful learning environment for their children. I love being part of this community and helping to foster growth and a love of learning with our students. Some things my husband and I enjoy are spending time with our sons and their families, walking our dog, biking, and visiting South Haven. We recently began to learn how to bake and decorate theme cookies and enjoy sharing those with the staff at C-S EL!



Jennifer Selby; Administrative Assistant
jennifer.selby@cssschools.net

I became a Paraprofessional at C-S Elementary when my youngest son started school to get out of the house a few times a week. I instantly realized this was exactly where I wanted to be and planned on staying for a long time. I transferred from a Paraprofessional to behavioral support, to recently becoming the administrative assistant. I absolutely adore the staff, teachers, students, parents and community members.

When not at school, I enjoy sitting by the beach, yard work, going on adventures with my family and reading.

Pre-School Team:



Cindy Amos; Pre-K Threes + Para Support
cindy.amos@cssschools.net

My name is Cindy Amos and I am part of the preschool team. I feel honored to teach the 3-year-old class as I love seeing the kids grow both academically and socially. The 3-year-olds bring such joy to the classroom and school! I also love being able to see them as they progress through their school journey.



Disa Askelson; Pre-K Threes Assist + Para Support

disa.askelson@cssschools.net

I am 'Ms. A' and I am part of the 3s preschool classroom, as well as a parapro and the after school Kids Corner program. Our family moved to the district this year and we absolutely love CS! I have learned so much this year from these kids and never imagined I would adore these little people as much as I do! I am so grateful to have a front row seat in so many of these kids school day!



Katie Banks, GSRP Pre-K Fours Assist

katie.banks@cssschools.net

I've wanted to become a teacher since sixth grade. I love teaching Pre-K at Climax-Scotts because for most children, it's their first school experience. My goal is to make them feel comfortable with school and excited about learning. Seeing their curious minds and watching them learn through play is truly a sight to see. It brings me joy to know that I have a hand in shaping the future. Teaching here becomes even more fun when you work with so many positive, caring, and creative people!

Our staff here is like a second family. When I'm not teaching, I love to be outside with my family, read books, watch movies, and sea glass hunt at the beach.



Janna Langs, GSRP Pre-K Fours Assist

janna.langs@cssschools.net

Hey there! I'm Mrs. Langs and I love teaching PreK. Seeing each kiddo grow throughout the year socially, emotionally, and academically is so gratifying, and it's a huge contributor of why I enjoy my time with our youngest Panthers:)

I am an alumna of Climax-Scotts and am happy to be teaching in the district that means so much to me and my family💙💛My husband, Tyler, also an alumnus and employee of C-S, and I have three incredible children who attend C-S; Alyse, Bryce and Taylor. Often, you'll see us at sporting events because that's what we like to do in our spare time.



Jenny Neal, GSRP Pre-K Fours Lead

jenny.neal@cssschools.net

My name is Jenny Neal and I am one of the Pre-K 4's teachers at Climax-Scotts. I love working with the littles and giving many their first school experience. I always knew I wanted to be a teacher and as a non-traditional student at WMU and MSU I worked hard to achieve that dream. I am a mom/bonus mom to five grown kids so coming to school and getting extra hugs from the children is an added benefit to teaching Pre-K. When I'm not teaching I enjoy spending time with my family and refinishing furniture.



Tara Wilson, GSRP Pre-K Fours Lead

tara.wilson@cssschools.net

My name is Tara Wilson and I am one of the Pre-K 4's teachers at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I love working with children and have always loved guiding children through the many milestones of early childhood development. Seeing the children's growth emotionally, socially and academically gives me so much joy. When not at school, my family and I love being outside and going on many adventures exploring the outdoors.

Teaching Team:



Lori Boomershine, Third Grade Teacher

lori.boomershine@cssschools.net

I am a third-grade teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary, and I love working with the students and helping them get better in their learning. I have been here a few years, and have taught a few different grade levels, and find it is always fun to make those connections among the families. I enjoy baking and also like to find opportunities to use my baking skills in the classroom, which the students seem to enjoy!



Allison Charles, K-5 STEAM instructor; School Improvement and Initiatives Coordinator

allison.charles@cssschools.net

I am a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) teacher for all K-5 grade students at Climax-Scotts Elementary School. My time at CS began first as an intern in a kindergarten classroom. In the years since, I have taught 2nd grade and Kindergarten prior to shifting into the STEAM position. I have always loved the heart of this community. The staff, students and families make it easily one of the best places to work. I love seeing the relationships our students have to our staff and how we focus on the development of the whole child.

When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with family, being on the lake, gardening, and game nights with friends.



Emily Davis, Kindergarten Teacher

emily.davis@cssschools.net

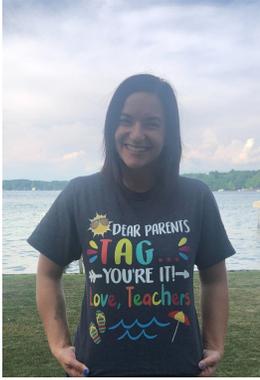
I am a Kindergarten teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I am also a 2012 graduate of Climax-Scotts High School. I grew up in the small community of Scotts and I couldn't be happier to still be here! I love that I am able to teach the future generations of CS graduates. The positivity and support from the CS staff, students, parents, and community make coming to work everyday easy! When I'm not teaching, I enjoy being outside, going for walks, and spending time with my family.



Alyssa Gray, First Grade Teacher

alyssa.gray@cssschools.net

I am a first grade teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I love this small-town community that is so positive and welcoming! My husband was a graduate from Climax-Scotts. The support from this staff is undeniable! Everyone roots for one another. I love building positive relationships with the students and their families that last for years to come. When I'm not teaching, I enjoy spending time with my family, reading, spending time near the pool, and shopping!



Hannah Hentz, First Grade Teacher

hannah.hentz@cssschool.net

Hello! I am a first-grade teacher here at Climax-Scotts Elementary. In my years working here, I have had the most amazing experiences with students, families, community, and staff members. The environment and culture in our elementary building is one of the most positive and caring places I've ever had the privilege to be a part of! I have always loved helping children learn, not only academically but socially and emotionally. My mission in life is to be a life-long learner and I strive to better myself as an educator and person daily! When I am not teaching, I love spending time and relaxing with my amazing family and friends, traveling (especially to Montana), and making lasting memories with those around me!



Ashley Hilton, Second Grade Teacher

ashley.hilton@cssschools.net

Teaching second grade at Climax-Scotts has come to feel like home to me. I love seeing the "lightbulb" go off in students' eyes when something I've taught them clicks. The moment of empowerment when they realize they can do something themselves is inspiring. My passion is helping students not only develop academically, but emotionally and socially as well. Creating a classroom culture of acceptance, inclusion, positivity, and respect is very important to me. I absolutely love how this school cares deeply about each student. Every child is seen.

Different staff members will reach out to see how they can help whether it's sitting down with someone for a talk, or leaving an encouraging note in their locker. I am beyond grateful for this team. When I'm not in the elementary, I am spending time with my husband and 2 daughters being a dance and soccer mom. I also enjoy gardening, tending my chickens, reading, hiking, and traveling.

Brandie Kline, Fourth Grade Teacher

brandie.kline@cssschools.net



I love teaching fourth grade at Climax-Scotts Elementary. As a C-S alumni, my favorite part about being a teacher here is the school and community environment. I have so many fond memories growing up in this community and I love that those values are still present today. At Climax-Scotts every child is valued and important. It truly is special when everyone (parents, teachers, para-pro staff, and administrators) wrap around our students and give them the best support. I feel proud to be a part of the C-S team and to send my own children here. When I'm not teaching I enjoy gardening and fishing along with farming with my husband (we grow corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay in the local community). We have three thriving boys that also keep us very busy.



Trish Lutz, P.E. Teacher

tricia.lutz@cssschools.net

Hey all! My passion for helping people obtain and maintain a healthy, active lifestyle has landed me in this role here at CS! I grew up in Kalamazoo, attended both KVCC and WMU before being brought on at Climax-Scotts. The love and support that surrounds this community is broadcasted across the classrooms, common spaces, and outside the school building. Teaching kids to be good humans has always been a passion of mine, and I can see how it has been the standard in this community for many years. When it comes to free time, you can find me at a lake with hubby, our son, and the dogs, on the golf course, or hanging out with family and friends!

Lance Bentley, Resource Room Teacher



lance.bentley@cssschools.net

I grew up in Mattawan, Michigan, I have 3 brothers, I enjoy sports, especially Track and Field and Cross Country. I love to participate in half marathons, adventure races, and explore hiking trails. I also enjoy many of the arts, such as graphic design, photography, animation, and the classic arts. Teaching and Coaching is my life's passion. I have been instructing and coaching students of all ages for more than ten years in some capacity. This is my fourth year working as a special education teacher. For the last three years, I worked at Hartford Middle School as a C.I. Special Education Teacher. Before my time at Hartford, I worked as a Paraprofessional at Kalamazoo Public Schools.

Britney Moreland, Kindergarten Teacher

britney.moreland@cssschools.net



Hi! I am a Kindergarten teacher here at C-S Elementary and have fallen in love with teaching Kindergarten. I feel honored to be a part of our school because the staff, students and families at Climax-Scotts are truly special. The supportive environment and positive school culture among staff and students is incredible and something I feel truly grateful for. My husband and I live in the district and our two children also attend school here. 💙💛 When I am not teaching you'll likely find me outside with my collection of rescued farm animals or working on some artwork. I also love to garden, go for walks, enjoy nature and spend as much time as I can with my family.



Jeanelle Pontoni, Fourth Grade Teacher

jeanelle.pontoni@cssschools.net

Hello Panther Family! I am a fourth grade teacher here at C-S and truly enjoy teaching young people. I am an alumna of Climax-Scotts and I absolutely love this community; the culture, the people, the feeling of home! I had moved away to Florida for 13 years, but once I had a family of my own, I wanted my children to have the same school experience that I had growing up here. I moved my family back home and currently have one daughter in 5th grade and another daughter starting Preschool next fall. I enjoy keeping busy by also coaching JV Volleyball at C-S, coaching Girls on the Run and being involved in our Parent Teacher Organization. My favorite pastime is hanging out with my daughters. We love game night and are extremely competitive. I also love to read, garden and shop.



Rachel Slager, Fifth Grade Teacher

rachel.slager@cssschools.net

I am a fifth grade teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I love working at Climax-Scotts because of the positive culture that we have! Coming into the building each day you can feel the bright energy that we are giving to each other. I also enjoy building students' confidence in their educational journey. When I'm not working I enjoy trivia, hiking, traveling and working on home improvement projects.



Diane Wieferich, Second Grade Teacher

diane.wiefeich@cssschools.net

I am a second grade teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary. Walking into our building, you will find an amazing staff! Everyone is friendly, positive, and supportive. Our staff works closely together to help every child succeed and reach their full potential. I love to see my students achieve that moment when they finally understand a difficult topic and are able to teach it to a peer. When not at school, I enjoy gardening, walking, hanging out with my family, and working on my house. I am married, have two kids, a dog, and two cats.



Alyssa York, Third Grade Teacher

alyssa.york@cssschools.net

I am a third grade teacher at Climax-Scotts Elementary. Ever since stepping foot into C-S Elementary it has felt like home to me. I love the small community feel and the positive learning environment. Everyone in the building is very welcoming and we truly work as a team to support each other and our students. I also enjoy building relationships with my students and their families every year. I love seeing my students gain confidence in things that they work so hard at. When I am not teaching, I enjoy camping, traveling, motorcycle rides with my husband, running, reading, and spending time with my family.



Brooklyn Genschoreck, Fifth Grade Teacher

brooklyn.genschoreck@cssschools.net

Hi there! I am one of two fifth grade teachers here at Climax-Scotts Elementary! I have wanted to be a teacher for as long as I can remember, but never thought I'd love teaching 5th grade as much as I do here at C-S! It is such a blessing to be part of such a positive and supportive staff, as well as community, that truly cares about the growing generations and putting our students first. Although we were both born and raised in nearby Comstock, my husband and I are lucky enough to have two children of our own attending C-S. In my free time I enjoy playing co-ed

volleyball with my husband, being outside as much as possible with my kiddos, teaching Sunday school and reading! 😊

Para Educator Support Team:



Deb Ashley, Library and Para-Support

deb.ashley@cssschools.net

I am currently the elementary librarian and para-support for Pre-K-5. I retired from my career as Pre-K Teacher/Director at C-S, but couldn't stay away and happily was welcomed back! I enjoy creating an atmosphere at school that inspires and captures the imagination of the students. My hobbies include reading, crafting, antiquing and gardening. My husband and I also create time to travel and camp with our grown children and grandchildren.



Abbey Bradley, Para Support
abigail.bradley@csschools.net

I am a Para Support and absolutely love my job. I love having that one on one time with some of the students. It makes this job extremely rewarding. Watching the kids' faces light up when they get something we have been working on is the coolest thing to see. I am a mom of two and love hanging out with my kiddos. Being outside with my kids and hunting with my husband are some of my favorite things to do. But when it comes to my favorite hobby I absolutely love reading and collecting books.



Deanna Damm, Floater Para Support/Substitute
deanna.damm@csschools.net

I am currently the floater para for the elementary school, which means that I cover the responsibilities for any of our para staff that are absent. Along with covering our para staff, I also am a substitute that can cover any of our amazing teaching staff when they are absent, which includes all grade levels Pre-K3-5th grade. I love this position as I'm always kept busy and I have the opportunity to work with all of our amazing staff and students of all ages. When I am not at school, I enjoy spending time with my family, gardening in the warmer months and spoiling our dog.



Maria McConnell, Para Support
maria.mcconnell@csschools.net

I am a paraprofessional here at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I'm a mom of two daughters and was hired as a para when my youngest started kindergarten. I love working with the amazing staff and students throughout the building. When I'm not at school some things I enjoy are baking and cooking with my girls, lots of reading, taking trips with my family and having fun at the lake.



Brittney Pearce, Para + Discipline Support Professional

brittney.pearce@csschools.net

Hello, my name is Brittney Pearce. I started working at Climax-Scotts Elementary when my oldest was in kindergarten. I started as a paraprofessional and have since transitioned into the behavioral support role. As the behavior support I utilize effective communication skills for conflict resolution, where the child can feel like people are listening to them and calm down in a manner that's as non-disruptive as possible.

I love the relationships I have built throughout the years with not only the staff, but the kiddos as well. I love hearing about their accomplishments, sports, weekend plans, etc. I like being able to help them work through some of their bigger challenges like problems with friends or just being a shoulder to lean on.

When I'm not at school, I enjoy spending time with my two kids and husband. We enjoy spending our days outside no matter the weather. Our favorite things to do are camping and fishing



Tracey Piper, Kids Corner (KC) Director

tracey.piper@csschools.net

I am the lead teacher/director of our Kid's Corner before and after care program. I have been here at C-S for a very long time and have done almost every job in the building except classroom teacher. I left C-S for a short time and worked at another school. As wonderful as the other school was. I soon discovered that there is no place like home. Our small school feels like a family and the staff and kids are like no other. To be able to return and finish out my time until retirement here has been a blessing. When I am not working; I enjoy crafting, camping and playing

with my greatest joy, my grandkids.



Laurice Scramlin, Para Support

laurice.scramlin@csschools.net

I am a para support at C-S and I enjoy my work because I love the students and knowing their personalities. The staff are like family and respect each other. My two kids attend C-S school, and in my free time I love trying out new recipes and cooking for my family, garden in spring and summer, bike rides with my family and work out at the gym with my friends. We have a goldendoodle named Cocoa who I love to take for car rides and long walks. I enjoy traveling, visiting new places, and trying new restaurants.



Lisa Soule, Para Support

lisa.soule@cssschools.net

Greetings: I am part of the Para staff at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I attended Scotts Elementary K-6 then off to the Jr-Sr High school, so therefore I have been through the doors many many times. My son was a grad of CSHS and now our grandchildren are attending. I enjoy training dogs as well as horses as well as cooking. I am a member of the St Joseph County Mounted Division. When my husband and I have down time we enjoy taking short trips to our Northern Michigan property. They say we always return to our roots, well I am back.



Amy Swager, Para Support

amy.swager@csschools.net

When the youngest of my 7 children started Kindergarten, I became a 1 to 1 aid for a student with autism here at Climax-Scotts Elementary School. What a game-changer! All these years later, I still LOVE teaching kids to read, write, and be kind people. Kids are some of the coolest people, but helping them develop necessary skills to become effective adults can be daunting. I'm happy to put in the hard work, learn new teaching skills, and rejoice over all their victories! I give reading instruction, lunchroom guidance, sensory breaks, homework help, and high fives. Outside of school, I spend time with my own kids, grandkids, nieces, and nephews. I

LOVE to travel and see new places, and gardening. I am active in youth ministry, and educate people about Heart Disease.



Caitlyn Tiller, Para Support

caitlyn.tiller@cssschools.net

Hi there, I'm a paraprofessional at Climax-Scotts Elementary. I love working with our amazing staff and students. I'm also a 2010 CS graduate and I'm excited for my three daughters to attend here as well! During the summer/fall I'm coaching the CS Varsity Cheer team and trying to squeeze in as many camping trips as possible!



Maria Trumm, Para Professional Support + Verbal and Written Spanish Translator

maria.trumm@cssschools.net

I like working as a Spanish translator at Climax Scotts Elementary School because I enjoy being able to help teachers and staff communicate with Hispanic families to help their children succeed academically, socially and emotionally. I continually see how all the staff is very caring and their main goal is to help all the students succeed!

Professional Support Staff



School Social Worker

Rachael Hart

rachael.hart@cssschools.net

I became a school social worker because I love helping kids overcome challenges to find the joy in learning. I enjoy working with our teachers to find new and creative ways to engage, encourage and inspire our students and am so grateful that I am able to be available for any student or family who needs support. I love to read, go camping with my family and travel to new places.



Special Education Supervisor

Jennifer Chiechi

jennifer.chiechi@cssschools.net

I am the Special Education Supervisor for Climax-Scotts Community Schools. I work with our special education staff and students Pre-K through 12th grade. I have a passion for ensuring students have the most successful educational experience possible. I decided at a very young age that I wanted to work in education. As a child I was drawn to peers in my grade that needed extra support and I spent all of my extra time in the resource room. I am so excited to be working in Climax-Scotts Community Schools. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends, family, and corgis. I also enjoy playing and coaching softball.



Speech Pathologist, Speech-Language Pathologist

Valerie Johnson

valerie.johnson@cssschools.net

I am the Speech-Language Pathologist for the Climax-Scotts District. I am lucky enough to work with Pre-K to High School students. I have a passion for helping others communicate. Watching a student become independent and confident in their communication skills is truly amazing. I love coming to work everyday because of the positive and supportive environment. When I'm not being a SLP, I enjoy spending time with my family, hiking and snuggling with my shih-tzu dog, Reese.



Title I Literacy Coach

Lauren MacVicar

lauren.macvicar@cssschools.net

I am the Title I Coordinator and Literacy Coach at Climax-Scotts Elementary School. In my current role, I help support both students and teachers in literacy. Prior to this role, I taught kindergarten through second grade at Climax-Scotts. There are so many reasons why I love working at Climax-Scotts! One thing that stands out the most is our amazing community where there is a partnership among all. At Climax-Scotts we approach learning and growth in a positive, supportive, and collaborative manner. In my free time, I love spending time with my

family and friends. In addition, I live a very active lifestyle with my main activity being running. I belong to different run clubs in my community and partake in various running events.



Custodial:

Dan Matrau, Daytime Custodian

I enjoy working at C-S El because the kids, staff, parents, and community are all awesome!

In my freetime I enjoy camping, bonfires, and good music.



Kitchen:

Barb Jones; Lead Kitchen Assist

I started working in the kitchen when my kids were in elementary school. It gave me a chance to get out of the house and do something while they were in school. Added perk was that when they were off school, so was I. In my spare time my husband and I enjoy camping, hiking, kayaking and hot-air ballooning.