



# PINE RIDGE HOME EDUCATORS

*Exciting changes on the horizon*

November 2016

## LOWER SCHOOL

Keystone Academy is expanding!

After providing classes for elementary students for ten years, Keystone Academy will be taking the middle school program under its wing next year, continuing the work Ceil Humphreys started 20 years ago when she founded HJH.

Keystone Academy's 5th through 8th grade classes will be taught by Becky Shultz, a former HJH mom and Florida certified teacher who has homeschooled all four of her children.

Using the curriculum Ceil created as a foundation for the middle school program, Keystone will continue in the HJH tradition of looking for challenging and exciting ways to teach the subject matter. A complete curriculum list will be available in January.

Keystone Academy currently offers classes for students from Pre-K through fourth grade. Using classical concepts blended with an engaging, hands-on approach, Keystone provides a challenging, well-rounded curriculum. Core classes include Latin, spelling, handwriting, grammar, composition, literature, history and geography. Math and science classes are offered additionally.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

After over 40 years in education, Ceil Humphreys will be retiring at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

"Teaching home school students has been a dream job for me," she says, "but I feel God leading me in a different direction." Next year the middle school program at Pine Ridge will be led by Keystone Academy.

"I couldn't retire until I found the perfect replacement, and there they were in the classroom next door," said Ceil. "When I first started HJH, I was on the phone with Gwen every week, getting her advice. I mentored Haley years ago when she team-taught grades 3-6 with me. Becky has been my friend for many years, and I know her to be an excellent teacher and mom. I can't imagine anyone more perfectly suited to continue the program I started."

Ceil is looking forward to doing more volunteer work and being a full-time grandmother.

"Thank you to all the students and their families who have been such a wonderful encouragement and allowed me to have the best job on earth," she says. "I will miss teaching, but I look forward to what God has in store for me next."

## UPPER SCHOOL

Lindy Gordon, who has been teaching high school classes in Gotha, is making the move to Pine Ridge next year. "I love the community at Pine Ridge, and I'm excited about offering a liberal arts program for high school students. Ceil Humphreys was the one who started me on the path to teaching literature to homeschool students. To have a place in this vibrant community she has built over the years is both a blessing and a privilege."

Lindy's children, Elsie and Atticus, currently attend Keystone Academy, so she will be a part of the Keystone family as both a homeschool mom and an upper school teacher.

"Lindy is the best English teacher I have ever known," said Ceil Humphreys. "She is not only an expert in her field, but she also loves her subject, and her enthusiasm for writing and literature is contagious. She will be a great addition to the Keystone program."

Lindy will teach a core literature and composition class for 9th - 12th graders, where she intends to engage students with the great minds of the past. She will also offer an accompanying history course and Latin.



## Meet the Teachers

OPEN HOUSE MEET & GREET

Thursday, January 12 7-8 p.m.

### LOWER SCHOOL

**Haley McAfee** loved growing up as a homeschooled student. After graduating from UCF in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Haley began teaching grades 3-6 with Ceil Humphreys at HJH. She established Keystone Academy the following year and has been teaching grades K-4 for ten years. Haley is currently embracing her own homeschool journey with her three sons, Will, Griffin, and Nate.

**Gwen Gurr** began homeschooling Haley, the first of her three children, in 1988. She continued the homeschooling journey from kindergarten to high school, finishing twenty years later with her youngest daughter, Lauren, in 2008. Gwen has a wide range of experience and knowledge in homeschooling. In 1996 she helped create and served as an active board member of Family Educators of Orange County, a support group for homeschoolers. In 1999 she was invited to work with the Orange County Public School System as a member of the Home Education Task Force, a committee which created a revised Home Education Program packet. She has also completed leadership training with the Florida Parent-Educators Association. For the past ten years Gwen has enjoyed teaching the lower grades at Keystone Academy with her two daughters, Haley and Lauren.

**Lauren Gurr** graduated from UCF with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies, including minors in Health Sciences and Psychology. Throughout college Lauren taught part-time at Keystone Academy, focusing on elementary math. Upon graduating in 2013, she joined the Keystone family full time where she team teaches the lower grades with her mom Gwen and sister Haley. Lauren also teaches lower and middle school science and middle school math.



### MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Becky Shultz** has a B.A. in Education, an M.S. in Psychology, and is a Florida certified teacher. Involved in the field of education her entire adult life, Becky taught in public schools as well as at the collegiate level and has worked in the private sector in customer service and management training. One of the "biggest blessings" of her life has been homeschooling her four children for 18 years. Her youngest child benefited from participating in Ceil's program at Pine Ridge. "While I certainly can't hope to fill Ceil's shoes, my desire is to carry on her tradition of coming alongside homeschooling parents to help them provide a quality Christian education. I am thankful and thrilled to be joining such an outstanding program as Keystone Academy."

### UPPER SCHOOL

**Lindy Gordon** graduated from the University of Florida in 2003 with a major in English and a minor in history. Since then, she's rarely stopped reading or studying. Both of her children, Elsie and Atticus, are Keystone students. Currently, Lindy is pursuing her instructor certification with the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) and continues to edit part-time.