

# VEGA FOR ALL Instructors



## Megan Ramirez

Megan has worked with children in many settings, and has both classroom and practical experience in child development. She's taught VEGA preschool for the past few years, where she's communicated and connected with children on the spectrum. Megan also has instructed before and after school programs as well as dance. Megan's special needs experience includes students with autism and downs syndrome. Megan has overseen open gyms at VEGA, coached gymnastics classes, and has coached children in other sports (basketball, soccer, etc) as well.



## Tricia Hoppa

Tricia has worked with children for almost 20 years, including elementary school classrooms as a volunteer art teacher, as a teacher's helper for 6 years, and as a childcare provider working with children aging from infant to school age. Tricia has coached gymnastics with VEGA for about six years, and is a former gymnast. She's coached gymnastics for a total of 15 years, working with children (and parents) ages 1 1/2 to high school aged kids as well. She loves working with children and is committed to both their physical and personal development.



## Kelly McLean

Kelly's professional experience includes 5 years as a Supervisor/Teacher for K-6th grade before and after school programs, 7 years as Kindermusik® instructor, 11 years as a volunteer art instructor, 3 years as yoga instructor, and 1 year as a gym coach. Kelly has developed curriculum for academic classes and yoga. She has taught specialty yoga classes geared for active boys and for the School of the Blind. Kelly is a registered Yoga Teacher, certified in Yoga Calm® and Senior Yoga. Kelly also has experience working with children with sensory processing and emotional disorders.



## Louisa Kane

Currently, Louisa is a para educator for 1:1 instruction & small group instruction for grades 3 and 4 in the Skamania School District. There, she works with special needs, ADD, ADHA and Dyslexia. She has coached with VEGA for seven years, can coach gymnastics to students of all ages, and is a swimming coach as well. Louisa has volunteered with severely behaviorally challenged autistic spectrum children from ages 4 to 18. She also has experience as a 1:1 care giver for young adults ages 17-21 with mild mental disabilities, MS and CP, and as a 1:1 assistant with home bound elderly.



## Elaina Stricklin

Elaina has taught academic preschool with VEGA for five years, where she's had the opportunity to connect with and instruct children of all abilities, including children on the spectrum. She oversees open gym at VEGA, and has assisted with young gymnastics classes. Having a special needs child of her own, Elaina has been very involved in his occupational therapy, physical and speech therapy sessions, and has worked with him extensively on her own. As such, Elaina is comfortable around and is very familiar with the workings of medical devices such as g-tubes, cannulas, etc.



## Candace Miller

Candace has been teaching for 20+ years, with experience in recreational therapy, volunteering with developmentally disabled, coaching gymnastics, and teaching dance and movement to a variety of populations. She developed a class in rhythmic repetition for children with Reactive Attachment Disorder, whose students were often on the spectrum or had developmental disabilities in addition to RAD. Candace encourages inclusion in the workplace, and in 2016 VEGA was nominated as Small Employer of the Year by the Clark County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board.

