

Climate Science & Sustainable Actions Academy at Duke Farms



Lead Faculty



Laura Gallagher is a third grade teacher at Mendham Township Elementary School in Brookside, NJ. She earned her M.Ed. in Elementary Education from Lehigh University and a M.Ed. in Teacher Leadership from The College of New Jersey. As an elementary school teacher for 11 years, she has been working to provide instruction reflective of best practices. As her school's sustainability coordinator, she leads the school community towards actions to become a certified sustainable school with *Sustainable Jersey for Schools*.

Trained in problem-based, experiential, and place-based learning, Laura embeds environmental education throughout the curricula, across all subject areas. Her creative teaching strategies are inspired by her work with the Cloud Institute, NJ Audubon, the Monarch Teachers Network and the Green Education Foundation. Laura has won multiple awards for her creative instructional practices including the *Green in Action Award* from the Green Education Foundation, the *Morris County Recycling Award* from the Municipal Utilities Authority and *Teacher of the Year* from the Mendham Township Elementary School.



Missy Holzer has been teaching high school science for more than 25 years and loves her job as more today than when she first started. Her philosophy in education includes using hands-on, minds-on investigative activities as a way to promote life-long learning in her students. She enjoys field research immensely and has assisted in data collection in places such as Svalbard, Nicaragua, Kenya, Ecuador, Jamaica, Costa Rica, off the coasts of Oregon, South Carolina, Cape

Cod, and Chile. Back in the classroom she uses these field experiences to develop units of study that will inspire students to get out and explore their natural world.

Missy is the Past-President of National Earth Science Teachers Association, has served on many state and national committees, and presents at local, regional, and national conferences. She is a NASA SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy) Ambassador and provides outreach for schools, education conferences, and astronomy clubs. She has master's degrees in science education and in geography, and a PhD in science education. She was on the writing team for the 2009 NJ Core Content Curriculum Standards for Science, participated on the NJ State Leadership Review Team for the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and created units and assessments for the new NJ model curriculums in Earth, Space and Environmental Science. She enjoys assisting teachers in making the transition to the NGSS by offering workshops that immerse teachers in the transition process.