



**Kirstin Petersen** Kinderstart Lead Teacher & Site Manager  
MN Teaching License / CPR First Aid Certified

Kirstin joined the Discovery Center teaching team in 2017. She graduated from Bradley University with a BS in Elementary Education and has her K-6 elementary licensure for Minnesota.

She loves to spend time outdoors with family and friends.

“Start each day with a full heart.”



**Shannon Buncher** Mentor & Site Director  
MN Teaching License / CPR First Aid Certified / Food Manager

Shannon earned her BA in Elementary Education with Preprimary emphasis from the University of MN, Morris. She taught 8 years in Kindergarten, spending 7 summers teaching preschool/toddlers at Migrant Head Start. She is currently teaching and site-directing at Annunciation’s Discovery Center in Minneapolis.

Shannon is providing support and mentorship to the St. Helena’ Teaching Team this school year.

“Live every moment in love.” Mother Theresa

**HARMONY DEVELOPER ACHIEVER EMPATHY LEARNER**



**Rebecca Holmgren** Lead Discovery Teacher  
MN Teaching License / CPR/First Aid Certified

Rebecca has been teaching with the Discovery Center since 2017. She has her BA in Elementary Education from Bethel University, as well as a MA in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas.

Rebecca has over 15 years of teaching experience at all levels and is passionate about helping children enjoy the learning process.

Rebecca enjoys spending time with family, as well as sports, nature walks, museums, swimming and tennis.



**Katy Hays** Assistant Teacher  
CPR / First Aid Certified

Katy joined St. Helena’s Discovery Center Team in 2018. She has 15 years experience working with children in theatre, art and education.

Katy enjoys acting, with credits at the Guthrie, Chanhassen and the Lab Theatre, as well as performs with various Twin Cities-based bands.



## **Esi Odoom    Assistant Teacher**

**CPR/First Aid Certified**

Esi joined the teaching team at St. Helena's Discovery Center in the Fall of 2016. She has a Childcare Development Associates Degree.

Esi enjoys baking, traveling, book club and spending time with her nephew.

**CONTEXT   BELIEF   RESPONSIBILITY   INTELLECTION   CONSISTENCY**



## **Hongchun Gu    Assistant Teacher**

**CPR/First Aid Certified**

Hongchun began teaching with St. Helena's Discovery Center in the Fall of 2017. She has her Masters Degree in Spanish from New Mexico State University.

Hongchun enjoys cooking, baking and hiking.

Romans 5:3-4 "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."