My name is Karin Swarner. I grew up in Damascus, Oregon and attended Hood View Junior Academy as a child. Earning a scholarship for volleyball, I attended Pacific Union College for my freshman year. In that first year of college I realized my passion for working with children and that my calling was to be a teacher. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Portland in 2004 with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I taught in New York City public schools for two years and began a Master's program at New York University studying literacy and language development. In 2006, I moved back to the west coast where I taught at a private school in Los Angeles until 2016. I completed my Master's degree in leadership and administration at the University of Pepperdine in 2008. While in Los Angeles, I developed and directed the children's ministry program for the Hollywood SDA church and taught and directed a 5-week summer school day camp. I am thrilled to be back home in the Pacific Northwest and feel blessed to have the opportunity to combine my two greatest passions—teaching and sharing the Gospel with children!

When I'm not in the classroom or working on school-related projects, I enjoy reading, skiing, hiking, anything artsy and playing with my son and our two dogs.

My Classroom Philosophy:

In the classroom, I delight in teaching through hands-on projects. I have a deep love and appreciation for God's creation and work to instill that love in my students by studying ecosystems, animals and teaching students how to tend a garden. Performing arts is another one of my favorite past times and every year my students perform an educational musical production.

Why I choose to work in Christian Education:
I choose to work in Christian Education because I want to join my two greatest passions: teaching and sharing God's message. I love that I not only get to help develop young minds, but I also have an opportunity to nourish their hearts and souls and help introduce children into a relationship with God.