

Lenexa resident brings kids cooking school to KC market



Julia Krumme will open Young Chefs Academy in August in Lenexa. Krumme poses with her children in a factory in Tallinn, Estonia, where they learned how to make marzipan.

Lenexa resident [Julia Krumme](#) isn't a professionally trained chef, but she learned plenty growing up from her two grandmothers, including how to make homemade noodles.

"She literally took up the entire kitchen and living room with her homemade noodles to dry them," Krumme said. "It was such a great memory."

Years later, Krumme now makes the noodles with her children, though she sticks to the kitchen only.

Krumme, who has a master's in leadership and business development, is turning her passion for cooking into a full-time job.

Krumme is bringing Young Chefs Academy to the Kansas City market for the first time. Kansas City native [Julie Burleson](#) founded the franchise in 2003, and it now has about 25 locations in the U.S. and abroad.

The children's cooking school is geared toward ages three to 14 and teaches youngsters a variety of skills – from kitchen safety to etiquette to meal planning to cooking. They also learn about the science and history behind a dish. Each month features a new theme, and classes are held weekly.

In addition to teaching basic culinary skills, Young Chefs Academy offers a Senior Chefs program that teaches advanced skills and concepts. Children and teens receive patches for each skill they learn and are presented with a black chef's coat and hat upon completing the three-year program.

Other highlights include summer camps and the option to host themed birthday parties on-site, where children participate in hands-on cooking activities.

Although cooking is a life skill, it has become a lost art, Krumme said. She hopes the cooking school will inspire more families to cook at home and bond in the kitchen. It's also an avenue for offering another social activity for youngsters outside of sports, she said.

To lead the academy, Krumme is hiring about five teachers, many of whom are former elementary school teachers, and a manager. Krumme plans to open Young Chefs Academy in Lenexa at 10082 Woodland Road at the end of August.