

NEW FACULTY DIRECTORY

2020-2021



INSPIRE. EMPOWER. NURTURE.
Enter with promise. Leave with purpose.



Joe Capalbo

CLC- Wellness Teacher

Hometown: Crystal Lake

Extracurricular Duties: Head Boys Basketball Coach and Girls Lacrosse Coach

College(s) & Degree(s): North Park University and Northern Illinois University

Hobbies/Interests: Coaching, golfing, and relaxing at the lake house with my family.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Passionate, loyal, kind, fun, competitive.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: I enjoy working with kids. I love the challenge of trying to get the best out of students and athletes.



Matt Collins

PR - Special Education
Division Leader

Hometown: Lake Zurich

College(s) & Degree(s): Illinois State and Concordia

Hobbies/Interests: Hanging with my kids and playing golf.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Loyal, sarcastic, quiet, dad, dry.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: To help kids!



Matt Cozzi

CG - English Teacher

Hometown: Cary

College(s) & Degree(s): University of Iowa - Journalism

Hobbies/Interests: Writing, podcasting (check out 'Eavesdrop' on Apple or Spotify!), coaching/watching baseball, and re-watching The Office or Parks and Rec.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Optimistic, upbeat, funny, reliable, reflective.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: I wanted to be a teacher because of the educational experiences I had in both high school and college. The classroom can be more than just a "classroom" -- you are a part of something bigger.

Hometown: Indiana and Pennsylvania

Extracurricular Duties: Marching Band, Jazz Band, Pit Orchestra Director

College(s) & Degree(s): Indiana University of Pennsylvania - B.S. Music Education, Illinois State - M.M. Wind Band Conducting and Clarinet Performance

Hobbies/Interests: The coffee brewing process/supporting local coffee shops, traveling, weight lifting, attending live concerts, taking care of/buying too many plants!

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Loyal, hilarious, confident, passionate, reliable.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: Throughout my public school and higher education, my teachers supported insight into diverse perspectives, cultures, possibilities and opportunities. These influential individuals led me on the journey of studying education. In the last two years of studying conducting and performance, I discovered that at the root of my teaching philosophy exists a desire to connect and communicate. It shaped my life through my teachers, and I hope to pay it forward to my students.



Marykate Kuhne
PR - Music Teacher



Charles Lee

CLS/PR - Family and
Consumer Sciences Teacher

Hometown: Northbrook

College(s) & Degree(s): Illinois State University

Hobbies/Interests: Cooking, watching a variety of sports, and I am a huge movie buff!

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Creative, passionate, listener, thinker, resilient.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: I became a teacher because I love creating, learning, and sharing with others.



Hannah Martin
CG - Social Science Teacher

Hometown: Crystal Lake

College(s) & Degree(s): Illinois State University - History/Social Science in Higher Education

Hobbies/Interests: I like to spend my time with my family and friends. I enjoy traveling and playing beach volleyball.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: A good listener, caring, outgoing, patient, creative.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: Teaching has always been more than just a profession for me, it is essentially my passion. I am eager to dedicate my career to maximizing individual student's performance, interest, and character as we will learn and grow together. Molding impressionable young minds is a great honor, and teaching will allow me this important privilege.



Brandon Mundschenk

CLS/PR - Industry and Careers
Teacher

Hometown: Lake Zurich

Extracurricular Duties: Technical Director and Lighting Designer at CLS.

College(s) & Degree(s): Culver-Stockton College - BFA

Hobbies/Interests: Fishing, reading, woodworking, mountain biking, archery.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You:

Passionate, empathetic, trustworthy, humble, adventurous.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: I've wanted to be a teacher for the better part of the past decade and have been making strides toward that end, albeit slowly. I am passionate about building into and building up the next generation and serving in a way that secured their success.



Austin Padjen

CLC - US History and
World Studies Teacher

Hometown: Crystal Lake

Extracurricular Duties: Assistant Baseball Coach

College(s) & Degree(s): Beloit College - Education and Youth Studies

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher: I love working with kids both in the classroom and on the field.



Jessica Penna

CLS - Special Education
Teacher (FLS)

Hometown: Round Lake

College(s) & Degree(s): College of Lake County and Southern Illinois University

Hobbies/Interests: I love crafting and spending time with my two puppies and family.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Creative, outgoing resourceful, fun, relaxed.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher? I grew up seeing my mom as a Special Education teacher and she is my number one role model. I remember going to work with her on multiple occasions and just having a blast with her students. I couldn't see myself in any other career. When I was 15, I started my first job as a Special Recreation Summer Camp Counselor and I loved it. Each of my participants gave me the motivation to pursue my career. I couldn't be happier where I am in life now.



Valerie Reed

PR - Sign Language
Interpreter

Hometown: Palatine

College(s) & Degree(s): Bradley University - BS Nursing, Waubensee Community College - Sign Language Interpretation.

Hobbies/Interests: Geography trivia buff, trying to learn Slovak language, spending time with my mom, son, friends, and of course cat.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Nice, quiet, dependable, easy-going, friendly.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher? Because sign language is awesome!



Taylor Smith

CG - Art/Humanities Teacher

Hometown: Cary

College(s) & Degree(s): McHenry County College - Associates, Belmont University and University of Northern Colorado - Bachelor in Art Education

Hobbies/Interests: Painting, drawing, jewelry-making, running, cooking.

Five Words Friends Would Use to Describe You: Creative, passionate, listener, thinker, resilient.

Why Did You Want to be a Teacher? I became a teacher because I love creating, learning, and sharing with others.