

What or who in your life inspired you to become a teacher?

- “I found that I had a way of explaining math to people while studying in college, and that is when I decided to go into education”
- “My first-grade teacher really impacted me to want to be a teacher. I remember she just made school so fun and caused me to fall in love with reading. My favorite memory from her was that she told us if we all got 100% on our spelling test she would do a cartwheel for us, and as a first grader when that day came it was one of the coolest experiences”
- “My Kindergarten teacher at Cambria Heights, Mrs. Terza. She has since retired but was fun and exciting and made me feel so smart! She’s the reason why I wanted to work in Early Childhood”
- “I’ve always wanted to be a teacher. It was something I knew about myself from a very early age”.
- “My mom and my love for teaching, learning, and kids”
- “My mom since she was a teacher”
- “My band teacher from high school”
- “Kristie Lake (5th-grade teacher)”
- “My father”
- “Along with my love for literature and writing, I had two amazing teachers in high school. Both were influential on my decision to become a teacher”
- “My 10th grade Math teacher Mrs. Crawford”
- “A former teacher”
- “My mother and brother”
- “My 5th-grade teacher and a lot of my elementary teachers had a great impact on my desire to be a teacher”
- “I was a nightmare student. I hated school and got into lots of trouble. I thought school was very boring. I had an English teacher (Mr. David Helinski- who in a neat twist of fate became the principal at TAHS several years ago) who believed in me and pushed me to be successful. I try to be that teacher to my fourth-grade

students now. I have made mistakes they have made and I believe that being honest with them about my past really helps build positive relationships.”

- “My elementary teachers inspired me. Also, attending a small neighborhood school where the teachers lived in the neighborhood and were a part of the community made everything feel connected. (Adams Elementary) Adams was a special place to all who attended.”
- “I saw a declining rate of Business Education teachers in high school. I strongly felt that we needed more teachers in this field because it helps students prepare for life after high school whether it's college or a job”
- “I liked the field I teach, and I wanted to help students understand my field”
- “My first-grade teacher, Mrs. Lawler”
- “Richard Merryman”
- “Anne Sullivan”
- “My father, who was also a teacher”
- “I had a great English teacher, Mr. Stump, who sparked my creativity and encouraged my ideas. I envisioned being the type of teacher who brings out the best in their students”
- “My high school English teacher was a rockstar. Because of him, I felt confident I could succeed”