

#### Messiah University Mosaic

**Education Student Scholarship** 

Education

9-2021

#### Education on Boyer 4th Newsletter - September 2021

**Education Department** 

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Sharpening Intellect | Deepening Christian Faith | Inspiring Action

Messiah University is a Christian university of the liberal and applied arts and sciences. Our mission is to educate men and women toward maturity of intellect, character and Christian faith in preparation for lives of service, leadership and reconciliation in church and society.

www.Messiah.edu

One University Ave. | Mechanicsburg PA 17055

## **EDUCATION ON**

# Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 10 | September 2021



In Every Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS

September, 2021

#### DR.TINA KELLER

#### What Will You Reclaim?

Welcome Back! I can't tell you how excited I am to welcome everyone back to campus this fall. To our new incoming students, we are so glad that you are here. We hope that you feel warmly embraced by the Messiah community. There are many exciting events to look forward to this fall. These monthly newsletters will help you know what is happening and take part in our department events. To our returning students, I feel like I am also welcoming you back to your "first year" in a way. There are so many things that Covid took, our loved ones, our financial security, our ability to travel, our plans for the future and chances to smile, hug or give a handshake. The list goes on and on. What it could never take away is our love and support of one another. We are bound together by love.

## In Colossians 3:14 Paul wrote, "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony."

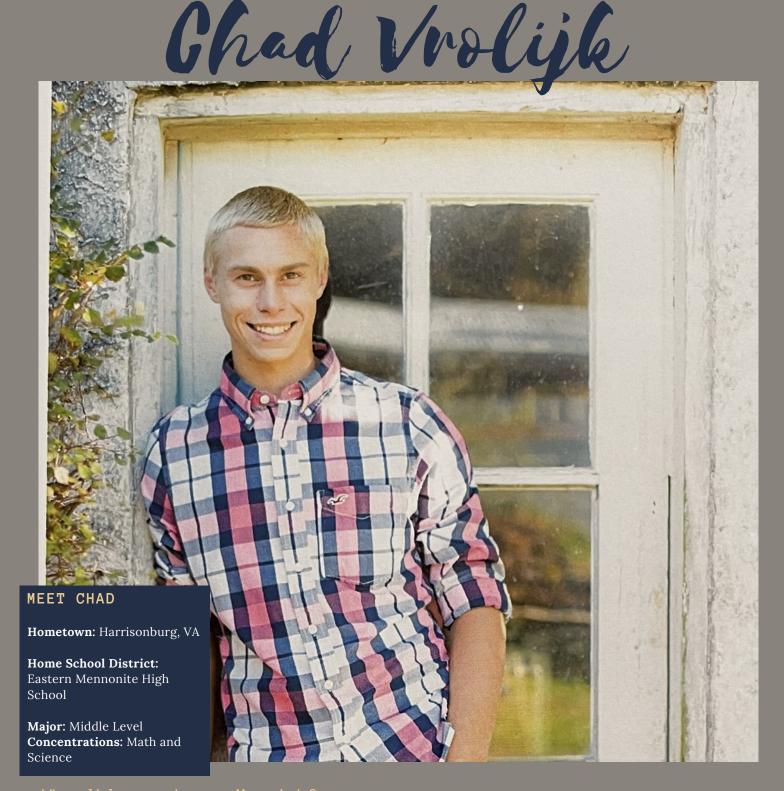
Just as each morning we dress, let us also not forget to clothe ourselves with a love for one another.

The past year and a half has made me appreciate the value and necessity of these human connections. Seeing your smiling faces, shaking hands and exchanging hugs was such a normal part of life on Boyer 4th. So much so that when we were apart, separated by masks or distance, it was a loss that I grieved. The silent halls of Boyer were an eerie reminder of that reality. I would find myself longing for students to fill the hallways, laughing in the Future Teacher's Lounge, and hugging and praying with friends between classes. I realize that we are still dealing with variants of COVID and need to take precautions. I hope that at the same time we reclaim what was lost. Let us intentionally spend time getting to know the people we meet.

This summer my family and I spent a week at the beach. It was just wonderful. We were able to relax, take naps, play games, and just be. It was a rest that I didn't know I needed. I took a picture of the sunset, shown above, and was able to stop and take a deep breath. I felt rejuvenated and felt a sense of normalcy again. I was able to reclaim peace and calm. What would you like to reclaim this fall?

#### On the Cover:

Junior Education Majors spending time in our Future Teacher's Lounge; September Nguyen, Lisa Vargas, Maria Cushing-Daniels, Molly Fried



#### Why did you choose Messiah?

I chose Messiah because of the welcoming atmosphere and ability to develop relationships with guys on the soccer team.

#### What do you love about Messiah?

I love how personal the professors are with their students and how friendly everyone is on campus.

## Featuring a few Messiah Education Majors Making a Difference Through Teaching

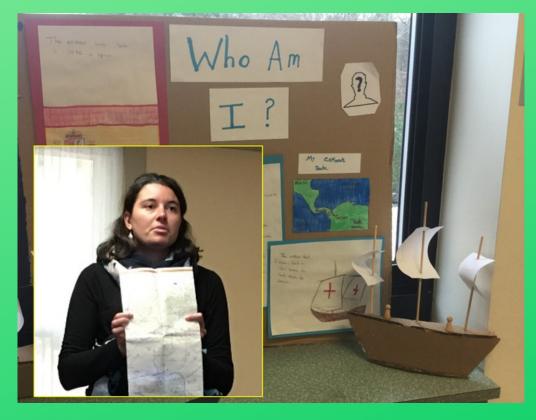
by Dr. Melinda Burchard



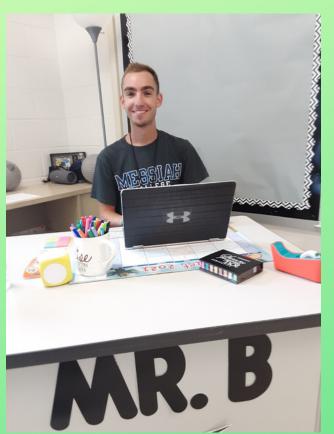
Jaryn Ruth (left, 2020, dual certifications in special education and early childhood) started his career teaching 4th grade regular education at Lincoln Elementary School in Gettysburg Area School District. This year, he is teaching 4th grade Learning Support, returning to his home of Mechanicsburg Area School District at Elmwood Academy. Jaryn earned his reputation for strengths in individualized interventions when working well with a child learning Braille. Outside of teaching, Jaryn volunteers supporting students and families in poverty, and coaches lacrosse.

#### **Courtney Simonds Hassell**

(right, 2013, certification in Middle School English and Social Studies) started her career teaching English in Poland for three years. She now teaches 6th grade Social Studies in Dover School District in New Hampshire. Courtney enjoys relating to middle schoolers using humor. Her favorite dumb teacher joke: "I needed to create a password that was eight characters long, so I picked Snow White and the Seven Dwarves." (Get it?) Courtney handles the stress of teaching by running ultra-marathons, 50 milers, 100 milers, even running in the rugged mountains of New Hampshire!



# Featuring a few Messiah Education Majors Making a Difference Through Teaching (cont.)



Alex Bishop (left, 2021, certifications in special education and early childhood) dreamed of teaching in West Shore School District since he first started tutoring in middle school. This year, Alex's dream comes true as he begins teaching 4th grade at Washington Heights Elementary School in Lemoyne. Alex designed a neighborhood themed classroom environment emphasizing values of Mr. Rogers. On top of his teaching in school, Alex works as a private tutor for children who struggle with learning no matter the grade or content. In tutoring, his secret motivational tool is to use Lennie the Wonder Bunny as a reward for working hard!



**Shay Williams Olson** (2020, dual certifications in special education and early childhood) finds her joy teaching children with autism in Caroline County School District in Virginia. Above left, Shay teaches fine motor skills. Shay enjoys encouraging fellow teachers and parents with options for supporting positive behaviors and trauma-informed responses to challenging behaviors of children. Above right, Shay created a sensory bin in which her students search to find favorite Disney characters. *How many can you find?* 

# Featuring a few Messiah Education Majors Making a Difference Through Teaching (cont.)

Sam Stewart (right, 2019, certification in middle school social studies) teaches 7th grade social studies at New Cumberland Middle School in West Shore School District. To positively reinforce completed work, Sam allowed students to paint ceiling tiles in the classroom. Sam loves to travel with his wife (Amber, also an alum Education major). During summers, Sam runs a residential painting business. He has also experienced success as the Assistant Coach for the baseball team of Red Land High School, state runners-up in spring 2021!





# Celebrating Career Success of Education Major Graduates!

Learn about impressive career success of Education
Major graduates at
https://www.messiah.edu/info/23060/graduates\_caree
r\_destinations

Rachel Feiler Marshall (left 2015, dual certifications in special education and early childhood) teaches Autism Support in Central Dauphin School District. For years, she taught at the elementary level, and next year moves to middle school. Most of her teaching day emphasizes development of verbal skills, behavior, and social skills. Rachel regularly guests teaches in Messiah classes, demonstrating autism curriculum techniques, and sharing her experiences learning to supervise paraprofessionals. Outside of the classroom, she and her husband foster parent two adorable little boys.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11



## Should Christians Care?

Romans 12: 15-18

Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Our world today is a mess. With the social and political unrest, it is hard to figure out what our job as Christians is in times like these. Jesus was one who sat with the marginalized and the oppressed. He weeps with those who weep. Today, we are so worried about furthering political agendas when that is not what Jesus saw as important. Jesus desires us as Christians to reach out to those who are hurting. Political agendas aside, people are suffering. We are to be a light, a shoulder to cry on, an ally, and advocate. Our job is to exemplify Christlikeness with those around us. One way to do that is to see people's pain, empathize with them, and be an advocate for change. It is hard because so many of us are prideful in our beliefs and stances. Jesus encourages us to humble ourselves, recognize our privileges, and make it our business to care about the injustices going on in our world. God-given authority requires full sacrifice on our part, to put aside any fear and take heart. Jesus' whole life was dedicated to speaking up for those who couldn't and seeing those who were forgotten. This is Christ's work. This is our business. This is what Jesus encourages and tells us we need to do.

Christ's business is our business.

Learn to do right; seek justice.

Defend the oppressed. [a]

Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow Isaiah 1:17

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly [a] with your God. Micah 6:8



Written by Alexandria Cass

























Scan to enter the contest

Win a MU Waterbottle



## **New Children's Books**

When you get a chance, stop by Boyer 432 and take a look at the bulletin board in the back of the classroom. You will see the over 30 new children's books recently purchased by the Department of Education for our Future Teacher's Lounge. These books, located on the middle shelf of the Future Teacher's Lounge, are for you to enjoy. So, if you have a break between classes, settle in with a good book. You just might find a new favorite or one that you want to add to your personal library.



Caught Between Scylla and Charybdis: Confluence of Epidemiology

and Education Policy and Practice

Dr. Obed Mfum-Mensah

Covid-19 (and its new "Delta Variant") continues to chart new paths that should nudge educational institutions and education stakeholders (parents, teachers, administrators, other education policy makers, mayors, and governors) to explore new ways of linking epidemiology and education policy and practice. Education stakeholders should see the connection between epidemiology and education policy and practice as a dialectic of the global and the local in education policy discourse.

Education stakeholders are already exhausted from the way COVID-19 and its strains continue to impact education policy and practice. From higher educational institutions to Kindergarten, all stakeholders are experiencing what some have come to define as "covid fatigue". The resurgence of COVID-19 Delta Variant means that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) may have to recommend that some regions, communities, and school districts reinstitute the mask mandate. Already, the potential for "re-masking' is freaking out many people and many are vehement in their opposition and pitching battles to oppose re-masking at all costs at school district board meetings even before the academic year begins. Media outlets are littered with vehement debates about mask mandates in schools in Florida, Texas and some states where governors are working so hard to defy CDC re-masking recommendations, aimed to stem the spread of the Delta variant. The elusiveness of COVID-19 only brings murkiness to mask mandates in educational institutions and implementing "normal" school organization. School districts, educational institutions and stakeholders continue to "grope toward a policy light," knowing that the road ahead is still not clear. No one is sure how FDA's full approval for Covid-19 vaccines will shape education policy and practice but one can anticipate the potential legal wars the full approval may bring at the school district levels.



DR. CAROL BUCKLEY

The degrees have been earned and certification tests passed. Graduation ceremonies and parties are over. Diplomas are framed and proudly displayed. A lot of preparation took place for the interviews and finally the job offer happened. New elementary teachers have spent most of the summer working feverishly on preparing their first classroom for that much awaited first day of school when their very first class of students arrive. How exciting! They have undoubtedly stewed over every detail and re-arranged things several times in their mind and in person before the classroom is just the way they want it to be. Desks are arranged in pods for cooperative learning. The chosen "theme" will resonate with the young learners. Motivational messages, encouraging words, and quotes are carefully placed around the room. The classroom library is beautifully organized, with books arranged by category in visually appealing decorative bins. There is an adorable bean bag, a child sized sofa, and soft pillows that invite all readers to get lost in a book.

As we scan the rest of the room, it is clear that the young students assigned to this classroom/teacher will be cared about and inspired. A small group table is carefully placed near the many crates of leveled readers for all possible levels of reading needs. In clear view for students is a word wall which will grow as the year unfolds. Each desk top displays a neatly stacked set of textbooks, a brand new pencil and eraser, and probably some small token from the teacher to soften the edges of starting a new school year with a teacher they don't know anything about. A warm welcome is written on the board. A sign on the teacher's desk displays what book (s)he is currently reading, so students see him/her as a reader. A "jobs" chart and subject/activity titles are hanging from the board and are prepared in such a way that changing it day-to-day will be easy. You may even have cute character posters around the room to promote good behavior and strong character.

As a professor of pre-service teachers, each summer I note with interest the many pictures of classrooms posted on various social media sites. Recent grads who are in their first teaching position proudly post pictures when they put the finishing touches on their new classrooms, and rightfully so. They have put a lot of hard work, time, thought, and money into having the room just the way they want it. This room is definitely a reflection on you, and the

appearance of it will speak volumes to administration and colleagues, but more importantly, it will send a strong message to your students and their parents/guardians about what you value. This is a big deal! First impressions will be made based not only on what is visible, but also on what ISN'T visible.

In the room described above, this teacher clearly encourages students to read. A special place is set up in the room for independent reading. There are leveled readers, a word wall, and so much more about the room that emphasizes reading. The teacher doesn't have to say a thing, or tell students and parents about the importance of reading. They can tell it is valued simply by looking around the room. It is also clear that the teacher cares about character development and socialization.

However, what do we know about the teacher's thoughts on Mathematics? Students and all who enter your room will hear what you are not saying about Math. Students' like or dislike of Mathematics will likely follow the lead of the adults in their world. If Math is not visible in your classroom, students will interpret this as a dislike of Math or lack of importance. As their elementary teacher, you have the opportunity to influence the young learners in your class. Elementary students deserve to have a teacher who is equally as ambitious and enthusiastic about teaching Math as they are about teaching ELA or any other subject. You have a responsibility to inspire and engage those learners, sparking a love of Math. Your attitude about the content you teach will be contagious.

For our students who are engaging in field placement, be aware of the classrooms in which you are a guest. What do you like about the surroundings? Based on first impressions and what you see when you walk in, what does your mentor teacher value? What is missing? For our alum in the first few years of teaching, as you set up your classroom this summer, be proud of your accomplishments. Be ambitious and tireless in your preparation. But please consider including a Math museum, Math centers, and Math manipulatives. Tell the families, students, and colleagues who will soon be entering your room that you value Math.





MEET FACULTY IN THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

# MUG NIGHT

New incoming students to the Education Department are invited to stop by the Future Teacher's Lounge on Boyer 4th **Tuesday September 7th anytime between 6:30-7:30** to design a mug, meet other new students and get to know professors.

# New First Year and Transfer Students







My husband, Adelaide, and I were excited to welcome Benjamin on June 2, 2021. He was 7 lbs. 7 oz. and 21 inches long. He is such a sweet baby and has been such a joy! At 2 months old, he has just started to "talk" to us and smile a lot. He loves bath time and watching his big sister dance, sing, and tell stories. His favorite book is James Dean's Pete the Cat Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, though he isn't reading it on his own quite yet. Um looking forward to him meeting all of you!

P.S. Does anyone recognize what children's book series characters Ben and Adelaide are dressed up as in the picture? It was the theme of her 4th birthday party this summer.

-Dr. Sarah Fischer

## **Special Education Choices**

at Messiah University
Serving the Least of These Matthew 25:40

There are THREE ways to pursue Special Education at Messiah University! For full details please see the webpages for each option.



To earn teaching certification in BOTH Special Education and Early Childhood

Education, choose the major in

Education with Dual Certification in PreK-4<sup>th</sup> and Special Education PreK-12<sup>th</sup>

Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education Student teach in Special Education, Special Education Internship

https://www.messiah.edu/education-major-with-dual-teaching-certification-in-gradesprek-4-and-special-education-prek-8-pennsylvania

Good option for flexible choices in teaching career, preparing to serve children with disabilities in regular or special education settings.



To earn teaching certification in ONLY Special Education choose the major in

#### Special Education N-12 with Teaching Certification PreK-12th

Field placements across grade ranges, regular, and special education
Student teach in Special Education, Special Education Internship
<a href="https://www.messiah.edu/special-education-grades-n-12-with-teaching-certification-in-grades-prek-12">https://www.messiah.edu/special-education-grades-n-12-with-teaching-certification-in-grades-prek-12</a>

Good option for teaching specializing in high school special education, or more severe disabilities, or for careers in agencies or hospital early intervention, etc.



If interested in serving individuals with disabilities without teaching

#### certification in special education, you might enjoy the Minor in Special Education

Develop expertise from 18-21 credits of study, with no field placement requirements https://www.messiah.edu/special-education-minor-pennsylvania

Good option for preparing to teach regular education with expertise in serving children with disabilities, or for disability-related work through agencies or government.

Messiah
University also
offers a minor
in Speech and
Language
Pathology.



Messiah
University also
offers a minor
in Disability
and Family
Wellness.



#### Who can help me decide?

See Dr. Melinda Burchard, Coordinator of Special Education, <u>mburchard@messiah.edu</u>, your academic advisor, or anyone in the Career and Professional Development Center. Declaring a major or minor at Messiah University is easy! Complete an on-line form at:

https://www.messiah.e du/info/23421/forms f or current students/4 140/update\_majormin orconccert



# DR. MELINDA BURCHARD

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 409 Email: mburchard@messiah.edu

#### **BIBLIOTHERAPY PROJECT**

#### Adventures in Special Education

I love what I teach! Students in two of my courses critique children's books about children with disabilities, and some about children who are culturally diverse. We evaluate how they work in bibliotherapy for identity, processing emotions, and finding solutions to problems. In one course, students plan how they might integrate interventions for reading and writing with purposes of bibliotherapy using Sarah Lean's middle school novel, *A Dog Called Homeless*.

Below, you can see some of the books critiqued in those two courses, many of which can be found in the Education Department's Teacher's Lounge on Boyer's 4th Floor.

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ph.D. in Special Education and Teacher Education from George Mason University

M.Ed. in Special Education from James Madison University

B.A. from the College of William & Mary

#### **CLASSES I TEACH**

Positive Behavior Supports
High Incidence Instructional
Strategies
Low Incidence Instructional Strategies
Inclusion Practices
Disability in Society

#### **SERVICE**

Coordinator of Special Education Coordinator of Speech and Language Pathology Minor

#### RESEARCH PROJECTS

Teacher Self-Efficacy
IEP Quality
Information Literacy for EvidenceBased Teaching Practices
Math and Culturally Responsive
Practices in Special Education



#### **RELATED PASSION**

We just celebrated the 34th anniversary of our son coming into our home first as a foster child, later as our adopted son. I enjoy supporting Messiah alum of the Special Education program who themselves become foster or adoptive parents!

## Education Association of Messiah University

# EAMU



Meet your 2021-2022 Officers!

Junior Kelsey Sharpe - President
Junior Becca Fogle - Vice President
Junior Clayton Hillson - Treasurer
Junior Lisa Vargas - Secretary &
Multimedia Coordinator

We are so excited to start off this year strong! Behind the scenes, we are working hard to plan exciting and beneficial events for all education majors.

Follow us on our social media

Follow us on our social media to stay updated on upcoming events and to become familiar with fellow education majors.



@messiaheamu



eamu@messiah.edu



**Education Association of Messiah University** 

**Upcoming Event!**:

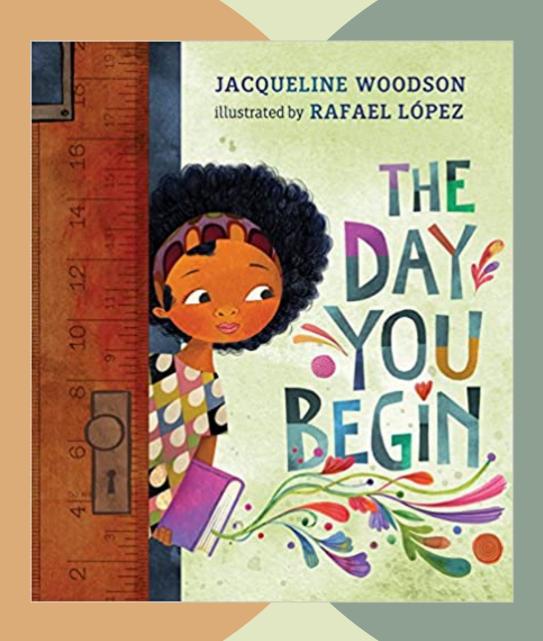
"HOW TO CRUSH STUDENT TEACHING FROM DAY ONE"

Virtual Webinar with Dr. Samantha Fecich, professor, author, & podcast host.

September 9th, @ 8PM



### DR. KELLER'S 2021 WELCOME BACK READ ALOUD



Watch the video

THE DAY YOU BEGIN - YOUTUBE





# PROFESSOR NICOLE PHILIPKOSKY

#### PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 422 Email: nphilipkosky@messiah.edu

#### **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Working toward Ed. D
at Temple University
Penn State University, M. Ed/ESL
Kutztown University, B.S. Ed/Speech
& Theatre

#### **CLASSES I TEACH**

EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL Classrooms

EDUC 401 TESOL/ESL Seminar EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship

#### **SERVICE**

Girls Scouts PTO LIttle Free Library Steward

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

TESOL
Refugee success
Middle school learners

#### **FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY**

I turn daily to the words of Matthew 7:12 to guide me as a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother, and teacher, "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you." The beloved Golden Rule can be applied to all areas, all ages, and all stages of life.

#### **FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT**

A few years I had the privilege of teaching middle school ESL students. Seeing struggling 6th graders come back as confident 7th graders able to navigate the hallways by understanding their new schedule, opening their locker locks on the first try, and knowing which lunch line to stand in for different choices will always be a favorite for me. We would spend SO much time learning those things the previous year! However, when I saw those same students help someone else who was struggling-oh my, was that heart-warming!

#### **HOW DID I BECOME INTERESTED IN MY FIELD?**

One summer, while working on my degree, I was hired to be a nanny for a Turkish family who recently moved to the US. I could converse with the parents well, but not the children. So we played UNO-a lot! Colors and numbers-we wore out that deck of cards by August! That experience alone introduced as well as inspired me to look at the world of TESOL, and I haven't looked back since!

#### **HIDDEN TALENTS**

I was known as "Goldie Bear," Kutztown University's mascot (at the time) duirng my undergrad years!

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

Our Favorite Online Resources and Tools



Imagine the following situation;

You have been teaching a group of English monolinguals for most of the year. You hear a knock at the door. Your building principal walks in Ana who is a new student from Brazil. She is a Portuguese monolingual. You do not speak Portuguese.

There are many ways that you can welcome Ana non-verbally. However, sometimes that is not enough. Here is where Google Translate can help. While not always 100% perfect, there are many functions that can be quite helpful.

Here are a few resources to help you learn more about how you can best utilize this tool with multilingual students and families.

## Using Google Translate

<u>Using Google Translate in Language Teaching-Tips and Ideas #GoogleTranslate - YouTube</u>

Finding Young EAL Learners' Voices: Using Google Translate in class – EAL Journal

Best Google Tools for English Language Learners | Tech & Learning (techlearning.com)

10 Cool Ways to Maximize Google Translate for Language Learning (lindsaydoeslanguages.com)



# **ALUMNI ADVICE**

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI



**ALUMNI PROFILE** 

Kayla Flemmens

CLASS OF 2020

Cockeysville Middle School Cockeysville, Maryland

Seventh Grade Science Teacher

#### **ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS**

A word I have been sharing with my students lately is perseverance. We recently watched in anticipation as the Mars rover by this name successfully touched down on the Red Planet. My students have been learning remotely since last March, and that task has required great perseverance and dedication. As our district makes plans to return hybrid, this perseverance is even more important. Pressing on in the hard times and unknowns can be difficult, but it is through these tough situations that we build character and are molded and shaped into the people we are meant to be. Perseverance is an important quality for educators as well. If we expect our students to persevere in the face of the unknown, we must first model this for our students. This means pressing on through the good and the bad days, having faith that there are better days ahead and that the impact we are making is far deeper than we could ever hope for or imagine. To truly persevere, we lean into our faith and into our hope, and are not afraid to ask for help or rely on others along the way. When we trust that God is doing more than we could ever fathom, we can persevere through the best and the worst days, knowing that He works through us and is working all things for good.



The Dorothy J. Gish Women in Leadership Award is named in honor of Dr. Dorothy Gish, Academic Dean Emeritus and former Professor of Early Childhood and Family Education at Messiah University. This award is used to support worthy leadership opportunities for fulltime, undergraduate women students at Messiah University. This award opportunity is offered both fall and spring semesters.

MON

For fall 2021 consideration, complete the online application by NOON September 30th.

**Application Link** 



#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### SEPTEMBER

Co-Teaching Training September 1 for Current Student Teachers

Meet EaMU-September 1 from 6:30-8:30 outside the Union

New Incoming Student Mug Night September 7th 6:30-7:30 pm Future Teacher's Lounge Boyer 4th

EAMU "How to crush student teaching from day one" September 9 8pm via zoom

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to... Beverly Pitcher-Johnson!! September 22



TEP Mandatory Meeting for First Year Students September 30 4:00-5:00 in Frey 110 Email cwickey@messiah.edu

Dorothy Gish Women in Leadership Award Application Due September 30th by noon



Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Do you have an idea for an article? We would love to hear from current students or Messiah Alumni! Email ideas to tkeller@messiah.edu







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Messiah University Educ. 222 Followers, 89 Following, 69

