

Teacher Features

Beth Jenson

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I love school and learning, and I especially love helping other people. While in college, I interned at a pharmaceutical company the summer before I did my student teaching. Blessed with both experiences, I was able to determine that I really love teaching students about science and math more than just doing science and math by myself.

What’s the most challenging part of your job?

I think the most challenging part of my job is finding the time and energy to do it all! I always want to do my best to connect with my students and their families, create awesome learning experiences, learn more through professional development, maintain a beautiful and inviting classroom for my students, and of course stay on top of all my record-keeping, grading, and other assigned tasks; all of this can be tiring and time-consuming. Thankfully, I enjoy my work!

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?

I find many parts of my job to be rewarding, but I would say that the most rewarding part is the relationships I build with my students and colleagues. I love getting to know my students and sharing my life with them, too. They are my “kids!” I am so happy that my students feel comfortable in our classroom, ready and able to learn, while also having fun. I love being a trusted adult that my students can turn to for help with our class content or with anything else on their mind. My students energize me and make me want to keep teaching and learning right along with them. My colleagues are my family away from home, and working with such wonderful people every day is a blessing.

What’s the most memorable moment you’ve had in the classroom?

A very memorable and proud moment for me was when my AP Chemistry students created a program of chemistry demonstrations for the younger students in our district. We went to the elementary school to perform them for grades K-3. Then the older elementary students came over to the high school for my students to perform a slightly more in-depth presentation. I was so proud of my students for their creativity, chemistry knowledge, and enthusiasm. They did a fantastic job working with the younger students, and just thinking about it still brings a giant smile to my face!

What’s your favorite subject/class to teach and why?

I have taught many types of science and math throughout my career, but some of my favorites are Chemistry, Physics, Algebra 1 & 2, and Geometry.

I currently teach Physics, which I love because the students who take Physics are so motivated and fun, and I have usually taught them in previous years in different subjects, so I enjoy getting to teach “my kids” again. We also do some really fun projects in Physics that allow us to be creative and scientific at the same time, like our catapult project!

I also currently teach Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. I like Algebra 1 because I get to teach students their first high school math class, so I can help them start their high school math careers with a positive attitude and I can help them to solidify their skills to be successful in the years to come. I enjoy teaching Algebra 2 because, like my Physics students, these students have often had me for a previous class, so I get to teach my kids again. In addition, I am proud to be able to offer my Algebra 2 students the opportunity to earn dual credit through Moraine Park Technical College. In both Algebra 1 & 2, it is really fun to see how different students solve problems; sometimes they teach me a new way I hadn’t thought of, which is awesome!

In previous years, I taught Chemistry and Geometry. I love both of these classes, too! Geometry is probably the most creative math class, in my opinion, allowing students to be more visual and, often, to approach problems in multiple ways. Chemistry is the subject I truly love, as it involves both science and math and helps us to understand the world around us. Chemistry is filled with fun labs, beautiful colors, enlightening connections, and logical structure that I simply adore.

Background information:

Years at the school — I started teaching at Laconia in 2006.

Hometown — Eldorado, WI; originally from Bruce Crossing, MI

Education— I earned my Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Michigan Technological University, with minors in math and earth science and a secondary teaching certification. Later I earned my Master of Science degree in Mathematics Education from UW-Oshkosh.

Family— I’m the proud mom of Luke and Adam, who are also RBSD Spartans! My husband, Mike, is a materials engineer in Appleton, so we have some really fun, nerdy conversations at home.



Morgan Mattheis

What inspired you to become a teacher?

As an alumni of the Rosendale-Brandon School District, I was blessed to have countless innovative, caring, and dedicated teachers and community members involved in my early education. My teachers at Brandon School worked hard to create learning opportunities that ignited every student’s passion for new information and experiences. They provided an environment where my classmates and I were encouraged to embrace challenges, seek answers to our endless inquiries, and celebrate who we were as unique individuals. I am incredibly grateful that my path led me home to the Rosendale-Brandon School District, so I can strive to continue this tradition in my own classroom in Brandon.



What’s the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job is saying goodbye to students at the end of each year. I work diligently to build relationships with every student in my room. I get to know their interests outside of school, walk hand in hand with students through academic and personal struggles, and cheer them on as they tackle big, audacious goals. It’s bittersweet when they walk out of my room at the end of the year. I’m sad to see each student leave our little classroom community, but I’m always proud of how much we have accomplished together.

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is when I observe students becoming more comfortable with the entire learning *process*. The “aha” moment is beautiful, but when I notice a student digging for answers to their own inquiries or redoing their work to muscle out a mistake, my heart becomes so full! Taking ownership of the learning process and developing a growth mindset is what will help my students continue to grow after they leave our classroom.

What’s the most memorable moment you’ve had in the classroom?

Oh, it is so difficult to pick one memorable moment! I think the most impactful moments for me have been when my students and I do something that mirrors my own experiences as a child at Brandon School. I remember the excitement of having the varsity players join us for a pep rally during homecoming, getting ready for the annual Halloween parade in the gym, and enjoying some of the same equipment my students explore outside at recess. So many wonderful memories come flooding back to me throughout the school year, as I guide my students through the unique experiences that make Brandon School a special place in so many people’s hearts.

What’s your favorite subject/class to teach and why?

My favorite subject to teach is reading. As a first-grade teacher, I love helping students understand the nitty gritty of reading and diving into the beautiful stories that are hidden within the pages of our books.

Background information:

Years at the school — This is my fifth year teaching at Brandon School.

Hometown — Brandon, WI

Education— I graduated from UW-Whitewater with a bachelor’s in Elementary Education and a minor in Special Education.

Family— Outside of school, I am busy with my little family. My husband, Sam, and I live just outside of Rosendale. We have a seven-month-old daughter, Lyla, and a golden retriever named Bodhi.

THE SPARTAN SENTINEL

Is published monthly during the school year by the
Rosendale-Brandon School District
300 West Wisconsin Street
Rosendale, WI 54974

Spartan Sentinel Staff
Editor: Danielle Olejniczak
Layout: Laconia High School publications class

Vol. 40 No.8, April 16, 2021

Watch your mailbox! The next edition
of *The Spartan Sentinel* will reach your
mailbox on May 7.

Email submissions to Danielle Olejniczak
(publications@rbsd.k12.wi.us) by
Thursday, April 22.

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