

# Teacher Features

## Melissa Ludjack

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I had some wonderful teachers and coaches that inspired me to want to learn and become a teacher. They were my role models and pushed me to be my best. In turn, this led me to want to do the same.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

The most challenging part of my job would be teaching different grade levels throughout the course of the day: Going from teaching 4th grade, to teaching freshman and sophomores can be challenging! I have learned to adapt to this and actually enjoy it now.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is the relationships that are formed with the students. There are special bonds and moments that make it all worthwhile.

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

It's hard to pick ONE, but I have to say playing Horse against one of the kids I coached for 7th grade boys basketball and winning against him. It was a humbling experience for the student.

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

Favorite grade to teach: 6th and 9/10. Favorite units: Basketball, badminton, wall-ball, volleyball, softball.

### Background information:

Years at the school: Six

Hometown: Ripon

Education: UW-Fond du Lac, and Ripon College, B.A.

Family: Married to Chad Ludjack for five years. Three children: Nathan, Jocelyn, and Alden.



## Renee Postotnik

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I have always loved working with children and watching them grow and learn. I also had some amazing teachers as I was growing up and they inspired me to want to become a teacher.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

Right now, I would say going in between at school and virtual learning is the most challenging part of my job. It is even more difficult to have some students at home and some doing virtual learning.

What's the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is seeing a student "get it" for the first time. The look on their face and the excitement in their eyes is priceless.

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

My most memorable moment in the classroom would probably be when I was kicked in the face, dislocating my jaw. I had to go to the ER, was sent home with some pain medicine, and went back the next day when I couldn't keep anything down. I was then admitted and had to spend the night in the hospital.

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

I love teaching reading because it opens up a new world for students and helps them in every other subject.

### Background information:

Years at the school: 15

Hometown: Brandon, WI

Education: I attended Northwestern College in Orange City, IA where I received my degrees in Elementary and Special Education. Then I attended the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh and received my degree in Reading.

Family: I am married to Kevin Postotnik, and have three children, Michelle, Evan, and Colton. We also have two dogs, Ryley and Luna.



## Beth Kwakkel

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I began teaching Human Resources courses as MPTC (on an adjunct basis) while working as the HR Director at Waupun Correctional Institution. The student's interest in the topic and engaging discussions and questions created a passion for teaching that led me to pursue a full-time career change. I love teaching at the high school level and having an impact on students earlier in their lives. I also enjoy the variety of courses I get to teach, like Accounting, Management, Career Development, Microsoft Applications, General Business, Marketing, and more.



What's the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is building relationships with students. Many times this results in them stopping in to ask for my help filling out a job application, or my advice on an upcoming interview, or even a reference for an internship after they've graduated. I love watching them pursue their dreams and knowing that I impacted them; even if it was just a smiling face, they could ask a question.

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

My favorite moments include laughing with my students when we act out interview or management scenarios or watching them get really invested in a business game, or seeing the pride they have after completing a challenging project or mock interview. It is just the best feeling when they succeed.

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

Career Development is my favorite course to teach. The course is all about the student. It includes the full cycle of discovering their strengths, investigating career options, developing a resume, completing a mock interview with an HR panel, creating a Career Plan including a pivot option, and completing a job shadow. It is impossible not to learn something that will help you in the future in that class.

### Background information:

Years at the school: 4 years at Laconia

Hometown: Ripon, WI

Education: UW Oshkosh – Bachelor of Business Administration, Marian University - Masters of Organizational Leadership

Family: I'm married to John Kwakkel, and we live in Ripon with our two children Lily (11) and JD (8).



## 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. 41 No.2, October 2, 2021

Watch your mailbox! The next edition  
of *The Spartan Sentinel* will reach your  
mailbox on Nov 6.

Email submissions to Danielle  
Olejniczak (publications@rbsd.k12.  
wi.us) by Thursday, October 21.

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