

Carron Blanchet



Position: Social Studies teacher, Middle School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 12 years

How do you spend your free time? Hiking, cooking and renovating a farmhouse and a cabin.

Tell us about your non-human family: 1 cat and 1 gerbil

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Doing telemarketing for an oil delivery company one summer.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? A full course Mediterranean meal with dishes especially from Greece, Lebanon and Morocco.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My first and second grade teacher, Mrs. Weber, who was kind and encouraging in so many ways. She took an interest in me and my outside interests.

People would be surprised to know: I live in an old farmhouse from 1789 when John Adams was president.

Your dream place to live: New Zealand.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: To be more confident and be more of a risk taker, try things out of your comfort zone.

Don't sweat the small stuff! Also, you are stronger than you think...work through challenges and do not let it make you a negative person. Your character means a lot.

What is at the top of your bucket list? To hike Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Olympus, also travel to Nepal and New Zealand.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? Be a photographer for a magazine like National Geographic so I could travel the world, meet a variety of people and experience diverse cultures.

Anything else you want to share? I have wanted to be a social studies teacher since I was in eighth grade. I have completed hiking the Catskill 35, Adirondack 46 and Northeast 111 high peaks in two years with no prior hiking experience at all and am currently working on completing the Long Tail through Vermont with my husband.

Katie Calhoun

Position: Science Teacher, High School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? Since 1998

How do you spend your free time? Spending time with my husband and two dogs. Visiting family and friends, hiking and reading.

Tell us about your non-human family: Wallace- a little white fuzzball mutt and Gracie- a tiny feisty terrier mix.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? GPS tracking in a wetland with hip waders and a satellite dish on my head.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Any kind of risotto!

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My 8th grade math teacher. She was tough and always seemed "mean" to me. I had an emergency surgery that year and she came to visit me in the hospital! I have never forgotten how much that visit meant to me.

People would be surprised to know: I have backpacked across Central America.

Your dream place to live: Near family and friends.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: Just be you and forget about what other people think.

What is at the top of your bucket list? To organize a school trip to Costa Rica.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? A private detective.



Jessia Clark



Position: AIS Math Teaching Assistant, Milton Terrace Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? One month and loving it!

Prior occupation: Prior to working for the district I worked as substitute and summer school teacher in Mohonasen and Burnt Hills.

How do you spend your free time? I love kayaking, watching/playing hockey, and being artsy!

Tell us about your non-human family: I have a kitten named Harper. She is a real spitfire and even plays fetch!

What is the weirdest job you ever had? I'm not sure if this would be considered weird, but I used to work at the Saratoga Racetrack on the backstretch. I was a "hot walker" for the trainer Ralph Nicks and loved every minute of it. My coworkers and horses made it worth the 4am start to my day.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you? Chicken Cacciatore with garlic mashed potatoes for the main course and a chocolate raspberry dessert.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My two German teachers in high school were wonderful! Both Ms. Canavan and Mr. Kramer inspired their students to learn the actual culture of German speaking countries, going beyond the basics/holidays. They also gave me the courage to travel abroad as a foreign exchange student in high school.

People would be surprised to know: Accidentally got married while traveling to Peru! I was deep in the Peruvian Rainforest and was lost in translation when visiting a native tribe (I don't speak any Spanish or Ashaninkan). What I thought was a tour and presentation on tribe life quickly became my wedding reception when I "accepted" the arrow from "my man" whose name I still have yet to learn... I just hope it's null and void unless I get to keep the 10 acres of prime Peruvian rainforest!

Your dream place to live: On a small, gentleman style farm in Rhode Island.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self? Braces aren't worth it if you don't wear your retainer once they are off.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Travelling the world. I would love to go to Ireland, Italy and Thailand someday.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? A sky diving instructor.

Anything else you would like to share: I love biology/science! If I wasn't in the education field I would have aspired for a career in medicine. I almost went to school to be a physicians assistant.



Ann Dierna



Position: Reading Teacher, Wood Road Elementary School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? 7 years.

How do you spend your free time? I spend my free time taking my children to their activities. What I would like to do in my free time is go to the beach, sit by a pool or golf.

Tell us about your non-human family: I have two cuties, Sophie a Bichon poodle mix and Ruby a Toy Poodle.

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Being a parent.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you?

Something I would not try cooking on my own, but it would fit under the category of Surf and Turf.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: My fifth grade teacher Mrs. Nettleton took time out of her mornings to read with me to enhance my reading skills. She made me the teacher I am today.

People would be surprised to know: I love Bette Midler!

Your dream place to live: Somewhere on the ocean far away from the snow!

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self? You won't always look this goofy. Your bangs were not meant to be that high.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Jumping out of a plane.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? The person who gets to read Hillary Clinton's emails!

Anything else you want to share? Life is short, live it to the fullest!



Kristina Guernsey



Position: Visual Art Teacher, Middle School

How long have you worked at BSCSD? Since September 1999

How do you spend your free time? I have an art studio space at my home and spend any free time creating landscape paintings in acrylic paints. I try to exhibit my works regionally each year and enjoy sharing my works with students. I bring my paintings in to class to allow students to learn to critique. I take their advice and bring back in the finished product and it's a great opportunity to see how we all can learn from each other! Gardening is also a passion of mine.

Tell us about your non-human family: 3 cats named Cupid, Psyche and Maggie. 2 dogs named Luigi and Bessie. We laughingly call our home "Guernsey Farm".

What is the weirdest job you ever had? Still waiting on that one.

Perhaps when I retire.

If you won an evening with a celebrity chef, what would you have them prepare for you?

Everything they are famous for and make sure I had a large doggie bag to take it home.

A teacher who inspired you as a child: To be honest, all of my teachers inspired me from

kindergarten to senior year. Each had their different style but all were supportive and there for us. Sometimes I didn't truly appreciate a teacher until after I left their class, but life lessons and maturing can be like that.

People would be surprised to know: That I was a first soprano singer at Café Lena in Saratoga, recorded at Skidmore College Studio for a soloist competition and still sing pop songs in my car on the way to work.

Your dream place to live? I would love to live in Italy someday. Discover the county of my ancestors.

What advice would you give your thirteen year old self: There are many things that we need to learn in life, just remember to do your best and ask questions. Your teachers are there to support you.

What is at the top of your bucket list? Traveling across country on a motorcycle. First I need to learn to ride one. My husband has one now, so we are moving in the right direction.

If you could have any job in the world for just one day, what would it be? It would be interesting to work as an archeologist on an important dig. Learn a little history about society.

Anything else you want to share? I enjoy what I do each day and wish to challenge myself whenever possible. This career offers so many opportunities to grow and become more effective for our students. I've recently started working on my National Board certification. I'm excited and nervous about the process, but know whatever the outcome my instructional practice will improve for my students.

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