



Name: Leia Rochester College: Rider University Major: Arts Administration, Music Emphasis Teaching: High School English School: Northeast High School

Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I was born here in Philly and love it here. I believe that the success of a city is directly related to the success of its students, and want to do my part in helping them realize that success. Fun Fact: I visited the UAE twice.



Name: Jessica Beaver College: University of Pittsburgh Major: Urban Studies and English Literature Teaching: High School English School: Northeast High School

Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: As a Philly native, it is my core belief that the city of Philadelphia arcs towards social justice. I have always seen education as a great equalizer, and I could not imagine doing it anywhere else besides my own community.

**Fun Fact:** I was once a Cast Member at Walt Disney World!



Name: Natalie Dixon
College: California Baptist University / Goldsmiths
College
Major: Bachelors in International Studies / Masters in
Rights and Development
Teaching: High School Social Studies
School: Northeast High School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I love Philly
because you do not have to travel far to experience
some of our nation's historical sites. I believe that
Philadelphia has a rich history and culture, which gives
me the ability to make the city come alive for my
students on a daily basis.

Fun Fact: I lived in London for two years.



Name: Danika Nieves
College: Temple
Major: Philosophy
Teaching: Middle School English
School: Feltonville School of Arts and Sciences
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I believe strongly in the right to a quality public education and I enjoy working with children.
Fun Fact: I spent three months in the West Bank and I

frequently foster kittens.





Name: Alma Sheppard-Matsuo College: School of Visual Arts Major: Animation Teaching: Middle School English School: Feltonville School of Arts and Science Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Philly's diverse history and population offer an ever expanding pool of experiences and tools that, brought not only to our students but by our students, can lead to so much positive growth for our communities and our education systems. I want to be a facilitator of that growth.

Fun Fact: I am a total fantasy and sci-fi nerd.



Name: Gianni Gaudino
College: Stockton University / Drexel University
Major: Psychology / English Education
Teaching: Middle School English
School: Austin Meehan Middle School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Philly is my favorite city. Part of my teaching philosophy is that students play an active role in their own education, and the unique perspectives and backgrounds Philadelphia students bring to the classroom allow them to teach and learn a lot from each other.

**Fun Fact:** I travel to Italy once a year to visit my dad and family.



Name: Rachel Kristine
College: The Pennsylvania State University
Major: Telecommunications
Teaching: Middle School English
School: Warren G. Harding Middle School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I believe in equal education for all students and I believe in the students of Philadelphia. Teaching here will allow me to help them achieve their goals.
Fun Fact: I served as a City Year AmeriCorps

**Fun Fact:** I served as a City Year AmeriCorps member.



Name: Kendall Mullen
College: The University of Alabama
Major: Communicative Disorders
Teaching: Middle School Math
School: Warren G. Harding Middle School
Why Teach in Philly Public
Schools: Philly is my home, and as a member of the community, I wanted to serve the most important people of our city: our kids.
Fun Fact: I have a 7 year old
English Bulldog named Lacy.





Name: Zhuljeta Bardhi
College: Strayer University
Major: BS in Accounting
Teaching: Middle School Math
School: Feltonville School of Arts and Sciences
Why Teach in Philly Public school: I enjoy being part of the SDP community because it's an institution that invests in diversity and inclusivity. It opened its doors to me as a newcomer and now it's my turn to reciprocate that trust and uplift our students and families.

**Fun Fact**: I did gymnastics for roughly ten years and yet have never broke a bone!



Name: David W. Frazier College: Widener University Major: Social Work Teaching: High School English School: Frankford High School

Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I believe in the students of Philadelphia. I also believe in the public school system as well. Being a teacher in the Philadelphia Public School System allows me the opportunity to be a part of the process of instilling hope and greatness in students whom the world and their experiences have counted out. It also gives the opportunity to empower through educating. **Fun Fact**: I love writing spoken word poetry.



Name: Bridget Donnelly College: Maryland Institute College of Art Major: Painting Teaching: Middle School English School: Vare-Washington School Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Even

Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Every child is entitled to a quality education. Philly is my home - I truly love and am invested in this city. I teach because I want the opportunity to make my city's schools a great choice for all students.

Fun Fact: I practiced Kung Fu for 5 years.



Name: Takeisha K. Parks College: Lincoln University, PA Major: English Liberal Arts Teaching: High School English School: Frankford High School Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I love Philly's cultural melting pot and I want to help students appreciate and understand it through literature! Fun Fact: One of my favorite contemporary literary series is *The Lorien Legacies* by Pittacus Lore.





Name: Lanore Prindle-Spearing College: Philadelphia University Major: Fashion Merchandising & Marketing Teaching: Middle School English Teacher School: Henry A. Brown Elementary School Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I believe in Philadelphia, it's diverse neighborhoods and traditions. I want to live to see children all across Philadelphia receive a quality, Public School Education, in a safe and nurturing environment, and, most importantly, I want to be part of that process!

**Fun Fact:** I grew up at the beach on Long Beach Island, NJ.



Name: Karen Michele Mitchell
College: Villanova University
Major: Communications
Teaching: Middle School Social Studies
School: Vare-Washington School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Philly is my home.
There is plenty of strong and positive qualities to be found and nurtured here. I look forward to educating our children who will enhance the legacy of our community.
Fun Fact: My middle and last names are translations of the name Michael.



Name: Nicolette Tuono
College: University of Delaware
Major: Communications
Teaching: Middle School English
School: Henry A. Brown Elementary School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Growing up in
Philly taught me the importance of education equity for all students. By teaching in a Philly public school, I'll be able to give back to my community in an industry I'm passionate about.
Fun Fact: I have a Jack Russell mix named Wallace.



Name: Jaleel Driggins
College: Duquesne University
Major: Communications
Teaching: Middle School English
School: Henry A. Brown Elementary School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: Philadelphia public schools have an impact on the everyday of so many students. I want to contribute a positive influence to those same students.
Fun Fact: I love the Game of Thrones series.





Name: James Orlando
College: New Jersey City University
Major: Mathematics
Teaching: High School Math
School: Northeast High School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: It is a honor to be a part of Philly's amazing academic history. I hope to provide students of all backgrounds with quantitative reasoning skills they can take beyond the classroom.

Fun Fact: I have played electric bass for 15 years.



Name: Marc Taylor
College: Grambling State university
Major: Political science
Teaching: High School History
School: Frankford High School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: This is my
opportunity to encourage students to see the greatness that life has for them.
Fun Fact: My first concert was Run-DMC, and Eric B. and Rakim.



Name: Sharon Rose Gelfer
College: Cal State Long Beach
Major: Linguistics & Anthropology
Teaching: Middle School Social Studies
School: Austin Meehan Middle School
Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: I believe that teaching in my community is the most effective contribution I can make to the city that I love.
Fun Fact: I grew up on a famously haunted road in NJ.



Name: Tim Graham College: Temple Major: Mathematics Teaching: High School Math School: Northeast High School Why Teach in Philly Public Schools: As a product of Philly public schools, I can attest to the quality of education on offer. I'm proud to continue that tradition. Fun Fact: The furthest I've ever ridden my bicycle in a single day is 156 miles.