

# **Welcome to 7th grade!**



**We are looking forward to a great 2020-2021 school year! Please review the slides to learn about the upcoming school year & meet the 7th grade team!**

# The 7th Grade Schedule

**This is what  
your child's  
daily  
schedule will  
be during  
remote  
learning.**

<b>1st Period (Power Up/Band/Choir)</b>	<b>8:00-8:30</b>
<b>2nd Period</b>	<b>8:35-9:05</b>
<b>3rd Period</b>	<b>9:10-9:40</b>
<b>4th Period (Specials/PE/Health)</b>	<b>9:45-10:15</b>
<b>5th Period (Lunch)</b>	<b>10:20-10:50</b>
<b>Break</b>	<b>10:55-11:25</b>
<b>6th Period (Specials/PE/Health)</b>	<b>11:30-12:00</b>
<b>7th Period</b>	<b>12:05-12:35</b>
<b>8th Period</b>	<b>12:40-1:10</b>
<b>9th Period</b>	<b>1:15-1:45</b>
<b>Curriculum Assistance</b>	<b>1:50-2:45</b>

**Curriculum  
Assistance is a time  
for students or  
parents to touch  
base with teachers.**

# 7th Grade Specials

**Your child  
will have PE  
3 out of 4  
quarters this  
school year!  
He or she will  
have Health  
the other  
quarter.**

## **Physical Education Teachers:**

Tim Jager: [tjager@d56.org](mailto:tjager@d56.org)

Ellen Campbell: [ecampbell@d56.org](mailto:ecampbell@d56.org)

Ryan Schenk: [rschenk@d56.org](mailto:rschenk@d56.org)

## **Health Teacher:**

Angela Jansen: [ajansen@d56.org](mailto:ajansen@d56.org)

## **Digital Literacy Teacher:**

Julie Lettner: [jlettner@d56.org](mailto:jlettner@d56.org)

## **Music Teacher:**

Mark Oestreich: [moestreich@d56.org](mailto:moestreich@d56.org)

## **Drama Teacher:**

Karen Pionke: [kpionke@d56.org](mailto:kpionke@d56.org)

## **Art Teacher:**

Kelly Griffin: [kgriffin@d56.org](mailto:kgriffin@d56.org)

**Your child will  
have one quarter  
of each of the  
following specials  
classes: Digital  
Literacy, Music,  
Drama, and Art.**

# POWER UP

Power Up is time where students are scheduled to do a variety of things!

- ❑ 7th Grade Band/Choir students will meet during this time.
- ❑ Students may receive extra time, practice, and/or added support in Language Arts or Math curriculum

You might have a 7th Grade teacher or another Viking staff member from our building at this time.

## Band Directors

**Mr. Boswell** - [sboswell@d56.org](mailto:sboswell@d56.org)

**Mr. Eikenberry** - [geikenberry@d56.org](mailto:geikenberry@d56.org)

**Mrs. Farster** - [sfarster@d56.org](mailto:sfarster@d56.org)





# Meet Mrs. Besse



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! My name is Mrs. Besse and I am so excited to have you in math class this year! This is my 13th year teaching math. I have taught 9th, 8th, 7th and 6th grade math.

I love my family. I have two kids, Bryson (10) and Ava (8), my husband, Jason and two dogs, Piper and Hampton. I enjoy going on daily jogs, walks and biking. I am also a sports fanatic.

My favorites are coffee, diet coke, chinese and mexican food.....

I look forward to a great year with you!

**Email Address:**  
**hbesse@d56.org**

**Google Meet Link:**  
**[meet.google.com/ugy-faiq-zzm](https://meet.google.com/ugy-faiq-zzm)**

# Meet Ms. McCauley



## ALL ABOUT ME

I Love my kids: Connor (24), Shannon (22), and Dylan (18) - they are awesome and I will always treat you like I would like them treated! I also love my dog, Chief! He is AMAZING!

I LOVE math! I teach 7th grade math and one Advanced 7th grade class. I also tutor students up to 11th grade!

I Love Cycling, Hiking and before I had knee surgery last year I competed in 6 Ironman competitions (look up what an IRONMAN is!).

Lastly, I love reading - I read and listen to audio books all the time!!! This year I will complete at least 120 books!

## Website:

[www.msmccauleymath.weebly.com](http://www.msmccauleymath.weebly.com)

## Email Address:

[lmccauley@d56.org](mailto:lmccauley@d56.org)

## Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/zyj-ceig-azz>

# Meet Ms. Szostak



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! My name is Caroline Szostak (pronounced sause-stack) and I am Viking's Advanced Academics math teacher. This is my 4th year working at Viking. This year I will be teaching one class of 7th Grade Math & one class of 7th Grade Algebra

In addition to teaching math, I coach cross country with Mrs. Graham and am the girls' track coach. This may not come as a surprise, but in my free time I enjoy running, working out, and being active! I also love baking and doing puzzles.

I can't wait to see my students again!

### Website:

<https://cszostak.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

[cszostak@d56.org](mailto:cszostak@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/sin-diyu-jkp>

# Meet Mrs. Hayes



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! My name is Megan Hayes. This will be my 15th year teaching science at Viking, and I love every minute of it. Science is Awesome and I hope to help my students love it as much as I do.

I live with my husband, two daughters, and three dogs. All of our dogs are rescue dogs. Our family is always on the go to soccer, because our daughters play travel.

In my freetime I enjoy running , hiking, and binge-watching Netflix.

### Website:

<https://hayes7thgradescience.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

[Mhayes@d56.org](mailto:Mhayes@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/uyk-wvyi-ryb>



# Meet Mrs. Kuffel



## ALL ABOUT ME

I am very excited to be teaching science this year. This is my 9th year teaching. I am obsessed with all things science and learning about our universe.

I have a husband and two dogs (Giggs and Hope) at home. They are very adventurous and keep us busy. We love camping, hiking, and trying new food!

My favorites are anything chocolate and coffee/tea. I look forward to an interesting and exciting year!

### Website:

<https://kuffelsci.weebly.com>

### Email Address:

[rkuffel@d56.org](mailto:rkuffel@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/lookup/ckbsfhqzug>



# Meet Ms. Melamed



## ALL ABOUT ME

What's up?! My name is Sarah Melamed, and I'm so excited to be teaching 7th grade social studies this year. In the past five years, I've taught U.S. History and World History to students in grades 8-12!

Outside of school, I love hanging out with my friends and family, playing games, dancing, and eating! If you really want to distract me you can bring up Tom Brady, dogs, or current events.

I truly believe I have the best job in the world! I'm looking forward to seeing your faces soon.

**Email Address:**  
smelamed@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
[bit.ly/3aID3eF](https://bit.ly/3aID3eF)

# Meet Mrs. Montero



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies! The most important thing you need to know about me is that I was born in Ireland! I married an amazing Cuban man and that explains why my last name is Montero, not Murphy:) If you ever want to learn Irish, I'm your 'free' tutor! Also, if you like sports, ask me about Hurling or Camogie and/or Gaelic Football. Finally, don't ever say Leprechauns are not real. Looking forward to meeting you all!

### Website:

<http://montero7.weebly.com>

### Email Address:

[mmontero@d56.org](mailto:mmontero@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/lookup/fxa3widkhv>

# Meet Mrs. Horne



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Stephanie Horne, and I am the 7th grade LA & Composition teacher. This year marks my 7th year at Viking.

I have a husband and 2 little girls at home. Caroline is 3 and Nora is 4 months. These two girls are really just the best things ever. So cute and so entertaining. I also have a dog (Remy) and cat (Henrietta).

I enjoy seeing the fun side of things, not taking things too seriously ever. Drinking Dunkin' Donuts coffee and eating are two of my favorite things to do. :)

I am very much looking forward to getting to know all of my students! They are the best part of teaching!

### Website:

<https://shorne.weebly.com>

### Email Address:

[shorne@d56.org](mailto:shorne@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/emu-rmvt-mgx>

# Meet Mrs. Remsing



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Stacey Remsing and I am a 7th grade literature and composition teacher. This is my 10th year of teaching, but only year two at Viking for me-- last year I taught reading for grades 6, 7, and 8.

When I'm not busy reading, writing, and editing with my students, you can find me at home with my husband and two wild (but cute) kids. My daughter Izzy is 3 and my son Emmett just turned 1. We love to play outside in any type of weather.

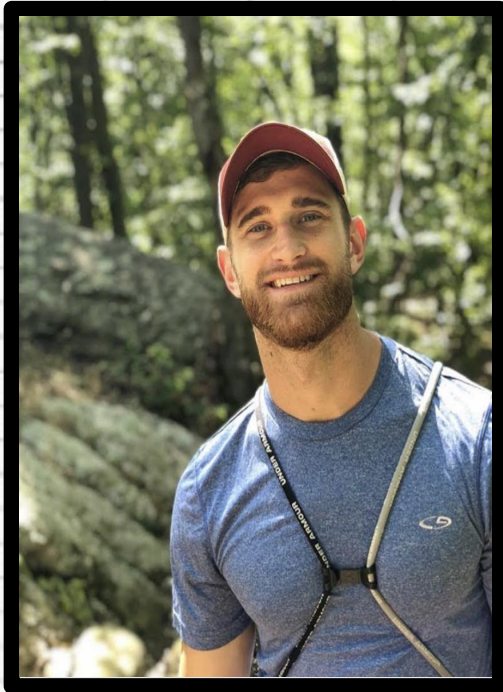
I am looking forward to our time together and navigating this year one page at a time!

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sremsing@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/hta-ojbh-cje>



# Meet Mr. Pastori



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! My name is Jay Pastori and I teach 7th grade Literature and Composition. This is my 2nd year at Viking Middle School. This is my 7th year teaching. I have a wonderful wife and two cats.

I enjoy reading and being outside as much as possible!

It has been a very strange start to the school year but I believe we will all work together to make the best of a new situation. I look forward to meeting you!

**Email Address:**  
jpastori@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/lookup/amwc4gl3th>



# Meet Ms. Nass



## ALL ABOUT ME

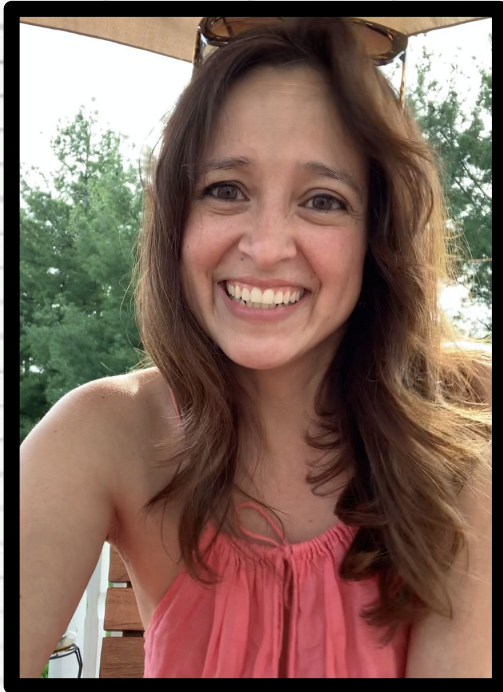
My name is Randi Nass, and I am Viking's Advanced Academics Language Arts and Composition teacher. This is my nineteenth year teaching at Viking. I taught 7th grade science for five years, and this is my fourteenth year in my current position.

I love spending time with my two daughters, who are five and seven. My favorite hobbies are reading, playing word games, and refinishing furniture. I also LOVE puns. If you come across any, please send them my way! Since my room is in the 8th grade hallway, I won't see you a lot, but I look forward to sharing a wave when I do!

**Email Address:**  
rnass@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/bes-vpiv-jij>

# Meet Ms. Ríos



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello! My name is Angélica M. Ríos, and I am a 7th grade Spanish and Composition teacher. I have taught over 20 years and look forward to this new school year. When I am not at school, I enjoy spending my time with my family.

¡Hola! Mi nombre es Angélica María Ríos y soy la maestra de español y composición de séptimo grado. He enseñado durante más de 20 años y espero con ansias este nuevo año escolar . Cuando no estoy en la escuela, disfruto el tiempo con mi familia.

### Website:

<https://arios474.wixsite.com/amrios>

### Email Address:

[arios@d56.org](mailto:arios@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/sdw-dnjq-gnn>

# Meet Miss Kukla



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Klaudia Kukla, and I am the Spanish teacher at Viking and River Trail schools. This is my third year teaching, and I am very excited to be back! In addition to being fluent in English and Spanish, I am also fluent in Polish (which is my native language). I have a passion for learning about different cultures and languages. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and my dog, Max. I also enjoy reading novels and biking.

I'm looking forward to seeing my students!

### Website:

<http://misskukla.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

[kkukla@d56.org](mailto:kkukla@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/hgr-cwjw-jdg>

# Meet Mr. Williams



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Dayne Williams, and I am the 7th and 8th grade Transitional Bilingual/Transitional Program of Instruction teacher. I have the pleasure of helping students who speak other languages transition to English. I have been an educator for 15 years, and this will be my 12th year at Viking Middle School.

When not working, I love spending time with my family and friends, listening to music, watching movies, and reading books.

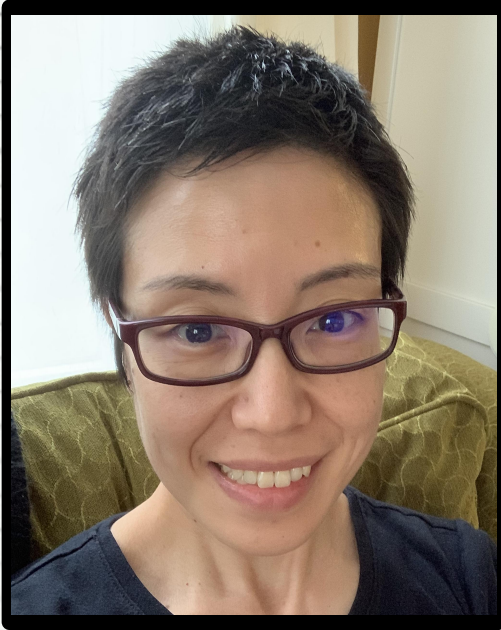
Looking forward to meeting you.

**Email Address:**  
dwilliams@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/fqc-nqqz-wza>



# Meet Mrs. Munakata-Dennis



## ALL ABOUT ME

HELLO EVERYONE! MY NAME IS MACHIKO MUNAKATA-DENNIS. STUDENTS CALL ME MRS. M. I TEACH SPECIAL EDUCATION MATH AND CO-TEACH GENERAL EDUCATION MATH. MATH IS THE BEST SUBJECT, EVER! I AM ORIGINALLY FROM JAPAN BUT I HAVE LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR MORE THAN HALF OF MY ADULT LIFE!

I HAVE TWO AWESOME KIDS OF MY OWN AT VIKING. MY DAUGHTER IS IN 8TH, MY SON IS IN 6TH GRADE. THEY ARE THE COOLEST KIDS AROUND!

RIGHT NOW, I AM ALL ABOUT THE CLONE WARS. I AM STILL IN SEASON 6 SO DON'T SPOIL IT FOR ME. WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT WHEN I AM FINISHED, IF YOU ARE A FAN! ANYWAY, I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU THIS YEAR! WOHHOO!

## Website:

[www.munakata.weebly.com](http://www.munakata.weebly.com)

## Email Address:

[mdennis@d56.org](mailto:mdennis@d56.org)

## Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/dnf-neju-rjy>



# Meet Mrs. Johnson



## ALL ABOUT ME

Welcome! I am Courtney Johnson, and I'm excited to begin my 14th year teaching Special Education at Viking. Whatever this year brings, we will be ready for it!

I love spending time with my husband and 3 kids, Jake (8), Jocelyn (7), and Wes (5). When we aren't busy with sports and other activities, I am also a photographer, writer, and a health coach. These are hobbies that make my heart happy!

I am looking forward to getting to know my students! This will be a very different year for all of us, but it will still be a great one!

### Website:

<https://courtneyjohnson678.weebly.com>

### Email Address:

[cjohnson@d56.org](mailto:cjohnson@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/kip-vbzy-zhh>

# Meet Mrs. MacDonald



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hello, My name is Mrs. MacDonald and I am so excited to begin teaching Special Education students at Viking Middle School. Mrs. Johnson and I will be working together to make your classes exciting while still helping you reach your goals.

I have a wonderful husband, two awesome daughters, Katy and Erin and a cute dog named Jack.

In my free time, I love traveling and playing volleyball.

Looking forward to meeting all of you and having a great year.

**Email Address:**  
**kmacdonald@d56.org**

**Google Meet Link:**  
**<https://meet.google.com/kip-vbzy-zhh>**

# **Specials, Health, & PE Teachers**

# Meet Mrs. Jansen



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Angela Jansen and I am the health teacher at Viking for 6th, 7th, & 8th grade. I have been a teacher at Viking since 1996.

My husband and I enjoy traveling and love to experience eating foods from different parts of the world.

In my spare time I love to read (Big Harry Potter Fan), write, and go for a run or walk. During quarantine we have been watching movies in the backyard!

I look forward to seeing all of you and having a positive, successful year!!

### Website:

<https://viking56health.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

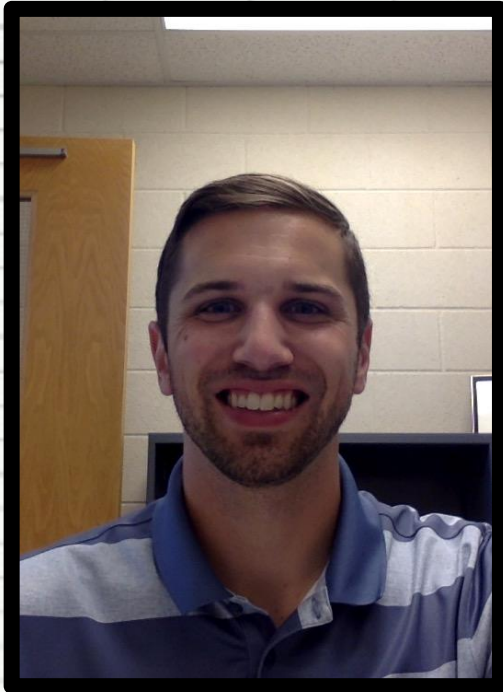
[ajansen@d56.org](mailto:ajansen@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/iao-gghz-uak>



# Meet Mr. Boswell



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Steven Boswell. This is my 6th year teaching band in District 56.

Outside my passion for music, I enjoy being active outdoors, sports, and reading.

This summer I enjoyed spending time with my wife, Mrs. Boswell who you may know as the 6 Red social studies teacher.

### Website:

<http://gurnee56bands.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

[sboswell@d56.org](mailto:sboswell@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/ajt7qlbbs7?aauthuser=0&hs=179>



# Meet Mr. Oestreich



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is Mark Oestreich and I currently teach 7th and 8th grade general music and am the Choral Director for grades 6, 7 and 8. I also serve as the musical director for the Fall Musical and Spring Dinner Theatre drama productions. This is my 20th year teaching at Viking School and 22nd year overall in education.

My hobbies include playing piano, listening to and composing music. In my free time I enjoy running and plan on running a half and full marathon in the months and years ahead. I look forward to seeing many familiar faces and getting to know new ones!

### Website:

<http://gurnee56choirs.weebly.com/>

### Email Address:

[moestreich@d56.org](mailto:moestreich@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/lookup/cpkegg5frl>

# Meet Ms. Griffin



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Kelly Griffin and I am currently the Art Teacher at Viking. This is my ninth year teaching and my third year at Viking.

During quarantine, I rescued a puppy named Scottie - she was only 5 lbs when I got her! Scottie is super cute but she loves to bite me! I

have my own side business decorating cookies and love being creative and learning new things. My other hobbies include listening to mystery/thriller audio books, going to concerts and going to Cubs, Bears & Blackhawks games! BOO Packers!

I spent most of my summer at my family's lakehouse in Green Lake, Wisconsin. I have two nephews, Cameron and Casey, and I take my job of being "The Best Aunt Ever" VERY seriously. I love going on our boat and spending quality time with all of my family!

I am looking forward to the unique experience we have this year and I can't wait to get started creating Art with you!

**Instagram:**  
@VikingSchoolArt

**Email Address:**  
kgriffin@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
[meet.google.com/mvy-daie-swe](https://meet.google.com/mvy-daie-swe)

# Meet Miss Lettner



## ALL ABOUT ME

Hi! My name is Miss Lettner. I love technology! I currently am teaching 6th-8th grade Digital Literacy. This is my first year at Viking. Before coming here, I was working and teaching in school technology positions. What I enjoyed most about my previous experiences was teaching a maker/STEM course, which makes me so excited to teach this class.

**Website:**

**Email Address:**  
jlettner@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**

<https://meet.google.com/lookup/bzmrwloh>

b4z

# Meet Mrs. Pionke



## ALL ABOUT ME

Welcome back to school! I am Mrs. Pionke the theatre teacher (pronounced as the letter P being on key, not offkey:). I have been teaching 19 years. During this time, I have taught High School World/US History and Theatre, and Middle School LA, Social Studies and Theatre.

Prior to teaching, I worked professionally in the film/TV/radio/theatre industry acting and also as a practicing Dental Hygienist (had to pay those bills when not acting). I also, sponsor after school Drama Club, Jr. Thespian Theatre Honor Society and the Viking Drama Players. I will discuss my hobbies and family during our first of class as we get to know each other better. Just know for now, that my family and career are my universe.

My goal is for you to gain an appreciation of the arts in a comfortable and fun environment. Can't wait to see you!

### Website:

<https://viking-drama.wixsite.com/viking-drama/contact>

### Email Address:

[kpionke@d56.org](mailto:kpionke@d56.org)

### Google Meet Link:

<https://meet.google.com/etp-abpi-edk?authuser=0>



# Meet Mr. Schenk



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Ryan Schenk, I am one of the Physical Education teachers at Viking. I have taught for 16 years and this will be my third year at Viking. Previously I taught at River Trail.

I am a big sports fan and love the Cubs, Blackhawks, Bucks, Badgers and Packers and enjoy going to games. In my spare time I like to read, travel, exercise and spend time with my wife and 2 dogs and 3 cats.

During quarantine I spent a lot of time cleaning and watching movies. I also spent time watching my garden and grass grow and washing my hands.

I also coach 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball and I look forward to starting a season when the time comes!

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rschenk@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/qiu-wuut-bvt?authuser=0>

# Meet Mr. Jager



## ALL ABOUT ME

I am a PE teacher here at Viking and I am starting my 13th year of teaching. I have been married to my beautiful wife for 11 years and we have two very energetic sons.

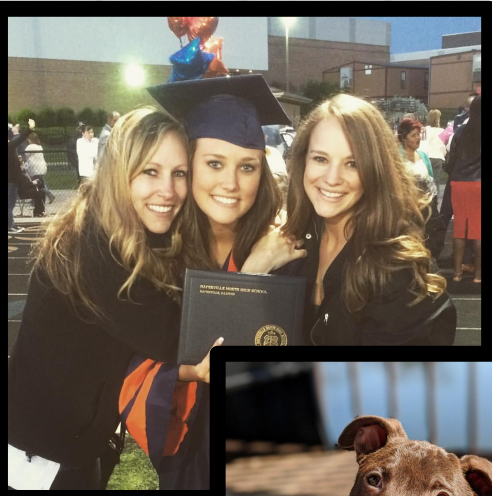
My favorite hobby is fishing. I did that a lot this summer (because it is outside and easy to social distance).

I have refused to cut my hair since this covid epidemic started and won't cut it until we get back to school (like normal school). Might need to go man bun soon.

**Email Address:**  
**tjager@d56.org**

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/lookup/hewv3dyzpd>

# Meet Ms. Campbell



## ALL ABOUT ME

My name is Ms. Campbell and I am a PE Teacher here at Viking. This is my 5th year teaching and my 2nd year at Viking.

Besides teaching, I coach the Girls' Soccer team and help assist with the Girls' Track and Field team.

During quarantine, I rescued a chocolate lab/pitbull mix puppy. Her name is Dot. She has a bald spot on her neck, which is where I got the idea to name her.

My hobbies include exercising, walking my dogs, and doing anything I can outside. For example, camping, sitting by a bonfire, or grilling out playing backyard games. All of these activities I was able to do during quarantine thankfully!

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ecampbell@d56.org

**Google Meet Link:**  
<https://meet.google.com/lookup/blybfhljac>