



RITON VOICE

Triton High School

Triton's Student-Produced Newspaper

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From Social Worker to Teacher Bertucci's Inspiring Journey to THS

By Weston Murphy & Bryant Monaghan
Staff Writers

New to the school, Ms. Jessica Bertucci is taking on the teaching world in the world languages department as a Spanish teacher. What made her choose to come to Triton? The Cribbage Club actually had a role.

In an interview with *The Triton Voice*, Bertucci, one of the new teachers at the school, shared her inspiring journey from being a social worker to becoming a passionate educator. Bertucci's enthusiasm for teaching and her unique background was shining through as she discussed her experiences and the impact of her diverse perspective on her teaching approach. She shed light on her remarkable transformation and her dedication to imparting the Spanish language and culture to students, whether they are newcomers to the language or ready-to-learn Spanish enthusiasts.

Bertucci is a first-year teacher at Triton High School, and she is being given a warm welcome by staff and students alike, she said. Being born in Massachusetts, Bertucci noted that growing up in a state with so many educational opportunities influenced her decision to begin her teaching career.

"I had a really awesome interview with (Assistant Principal) Mr. (Joseph) Celia and (World Language program coordinator) Mrs. (Regina) Symonds," she said when asked about what made her choose Triton. The Cribbage Club was the real kicker though, as she noted her love for cribbage as one of the reasons for her choosing Triton over other schools.

"No way, y'all have cribbage!" she remembered thinking at the time. "Triton's gotta be where I go to work," Bertucci said after citing everything that she loved about our school.

Like other teachers, Bertucci has faced struggles and roadblocks along her route to get to where she is. Something not unique to her, but for every teacher in our school, was that COVID-19 has taken the toll on Bertucci's career.



Ms. Jessica Bertucci on a recent day in her classroom (Murphy/Monaghan photo).

Bertucci noted that another of her biggest challenges in the classroom has been trying to get students excited for class. This is a major problem in many classrooms, as many students, regardless of grade, often do not pay attention enough to enjoy what they are learning. Despite the constant challenges of getting people to focus on her, Bertucci loves teaching here at Triton.

Her favorite part about teaching? Reactions from students. Often, students approach Bertucci with something Spanish-related they learned, or something they saw outside of the classroom.

"It's so exciting!" said Bertucci. She loves it when her students apply Spanish to everyday life.

Bertucci says obstacles such as COVID have helped her grow tremendously, as it has given her a lesson about how to work around roadblocks and

difficulties along the way. She continues to stay strong as a teacher even with the everlasting impacts of COVID.

When an issue strikes the classroom, Bertucci has a different approach than other teachers you might see. Instead of dealing with immediate punishment, she likes to get to the bottom of it, looking constantly for a solution until one is found.

"I have more of a compassionate thought of, 'Okay what is going on with my students.'" Students appear to be very appreciative of Bertucci genuinely caring to find a solution.

Interesting, fair, and knowledgeable are all things that Bertucci looks to be viewed as by her students. As personal students of hers, these *Triton Voice* reporters can say that these things are accurate.

There are many new faces at Triton High School this year, across all departments. Getting to know these teachers is important, as you will learn from them throughout your high school experience.

Ms. Jessica Bertucci was no exception to this, providing an interesting, and rather admirable view into the life of a high school Spanish teacher.

Focus On Mental Health

New Wellness Coordinator, Matthew Jackling, Joins District

By Hudson Murphy
Staff Writer

New District Wellness Coordinator Matthew Jackling said he only knew two things in his first days at Triton: "Where my parking space is and where the bathroom is."

Going into a new school might be confusing to some, especially the maze of halls at Triton. But knowing the necessary elements are enough to get by if you've only been here since summer.

Even though he doesn't work under exactly one person, Jackling still has the district staff life who

have guided and instructed him helping him towards creating a plan for increased mental, social, and emotional wellness for students at Triton schools. Mrs. Anna Bates, the district's director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, has been helping him since the start. He said she has taught him the ropes about what his job entails, along with the administrators and principals who want to make good changes for the new wellness program and the way towards teaching students and staff how to advance wellness here.

Jackling transferred from Burlington High School to Triton after 17 years. Even though it sounds like a big move, Jackling said he actually lives closer to Triton than Burlington. It only takes him 20 minutes compared to the hour or longer commute that he had to deal with before.

Jackling has a lot of ideas and is very interested in continuing the wellness program established here as well as adding to it.

Jackling said he sees the wellness program as a collaborative effort where kids can talk and help each other, while keeping times less stressful and finding ways for kids to connect on deeper levels. School can be a very stressful time, so he needs to account for that, he said.

"We can tell students to meditate but can't enforce it without giving them the time to," said Jackling.

Jackling said that some of his priorities are:

- Constructing a new health and wellness system in the schools.

- Reaching out to and working with Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital to keep student screenings and surveys going to understand more about what students need.

- Figuring out and incorporating wellness time for students during the school day.

- Hiring staff to teach wellness classes.

At home, Jackling's wife and two young boys are happy with the changes, in terms of the shorter commute and how much more energy and time he has for them after work. He said at Triton Jackling saw the opportunity for growth, seeing that other schools don't have the leadership and time to actually get the help and wellness they needed.

This is a lot on the plate for a new teacher to handle. Luckily he has had a lot of help along the way and is going to make great strides to improve the school.



Wellness Coordinator Matthew Jackling (Burlington Schools Image).

Empowering Young Minds New Social Worker Joins LIFT

By Lilah Nason, Staff Writer

At a young age, Mrs. Abigail Hammond knew she wanted to work with people in a helping capacity. "I was always kind of drawn to it," she states. "My mom was a social worker, so I grew up watching her play a very different role but within that same field."

Subsequent to her high school education, Hammond went straight for her psychology major. Prior to Hammond going back to school to be a social worker, she was working as a special education teacher. Although she enjoyed her time in this field, she knew there was somewhere else she needed to be. She made a conscious decision to shift her schedule and take a leap towards something that she felt she belonged to. If it weren't for that leap, chances are that Triton would've missed out on the unhesitating dedication, compassion and commitment she brings to our school in her role as a clinician in the LIFT program.

"I think Ms. Hammond seems to be settling in just fine and is a great addition to the Triton community," said Mr. Victor Fidler, Triton High Schools LIFT academic coordinator as well as Hammonds mentor. "She brings a calm reassuring voice that is knowledgeable and understanding of the needs of the students in our school. Ms. Hammond has been a pleasure to work with to start the year, and I'm sure that will continue.

See [HAMMOND on page 2](#)



New LIFT Social Worker Abigail Hammond (courtesy photo).

— RETRACTION —

Dear Readers,

An article that ran in last week's newspaper titled "Fifth Grade Class in Good Hands with O'Donoghue" was fabricated and inaccurate and should not have run in the newspaper.

The *Triton Voice* is a student-run publication that strives for factual reporting, and this story did not represent that ideal. The writer and the *Voice* apologize for the inaccurate story.

Triton Regional School District is committed to maintaining a learning environment free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, political affiliation, disability, or any other factor as defined and required by state and federal laws.

Lesbrun's Lessons New Special Ed. Teacher at SES

By Olivia Karvelis & Taryn Lebreck
Staff Writers

Finding a name for her 15 month old was hard enough, considering the billion names she's seen throughout her years of teaching. But Mrs. Lauren Lebrun also recently needed to begin a new teaching job at Salisbury Elementary School.

Lebrun previously taught kindergarten through fifth grade at Hamilton-Wenham, coached girls soccer as well as boys basketball, and was an administrator for a while after that. She left that career behind because she was about to have a child. Now, Lebrun is at SES, where she is a special education teacher.

Lebrun said her favorite part of teaching is being with the students. "Building relationships is why I got into teaching," said Lebrun.



Lauren Lebrun stands in her new classroom (courtesy photo).

Ms. Lebrun is someone who didn't just pick teaching as a career randomly. Lebrun chose it because she enjoyed the job, being around the kids and building relationships with them.

Throughout the jobs Lebrun lived through years of teaching and being administered, she has enjoyed all of it.

Having connections with the other administrators and the kids was what Lebrun loved so much about the education occupation.

Though Lebrun said she didn't have the best teachers growing up, she decided on teaching partly so to make sure she was a good teacher for the kids. It was meaningful to her to teach the kids the ways of the world, and being an active member of society, she said.

Outside of education, Lebrun's loves new experiences, such as riding motorcycles, skiing and snowboarding. She is very competitive, especially against her husband.

From the City to Triton New Adjustment Counselor Travels from School to School

By Brian Clark & Jonathan Hight
Staff Writers

Working with kids is not an easy job. But Amanda Govoni goes between the Triton Middle School and Pine Grove Elementary School weekly to help kids with their mental health.

Working with kids has always been an interest for Govoni. Before coming to Triton she got her master's degree in social work at Salem State University. This got her a position at Saugus Public schools.

Coming from Saugus, which is very city-like, to Triton, which is more rural was a transition that worked for Govoni. "I really like it. I think it's a really great community, it's a safe community, it's a rural community," said Govoni when asked about the transition.

After moving to Salisbury in 2020, Govoni, while looking for a job, found the Triton District on School-Spring while Triton was searching for new staff in the REACH program. She found this split position as a school adjustment counselor for both the Triton Middle School and Pine Grove Elementary School. This position fit her masters degree well, and it was something that she thought she would really enjoyed doing.

However, moving between schools is very challenging, especially for a new teacher. "My quite honest answer? It's been difficult, but I think it's a learning curve. It's definitely different with the population of elementary and middle school and also trying to find the balance of meeting the needs of the students in the middle school and meeting the needs here at the elementary school, but I like it," said Govoni about having to alternate between the two schools.

Even without the difficulty of moving schools, Govoni still faces many other challenges in her work. She believes that mental health needs are at an all time high for kids. Because of this, it is challenging for her to help those kids in crises that are out of her control. Govoni tells us the first thing to do is identify what is in their control and what is out of their control and how to manage that situation to the best of their ability. Sometimes students will require more support from outside the school, so Govoni will refer out extra resources and services to support the student's mental health. In cases where a student's parent or family will need more support, Govoni wants to provide the re-



PGS and middle school teacher Amanda Govoni works with a student on a recent day (courtesy photo).

sources to kids without herself trying to problem solve.

After a good impression in the beginning of the year, Govoni has fit right in at Pine Grove. PGS Principal, Nicole LaPerriere said "she's just got this magnetic personality that the kids really are drawn to. She is picking up things quickly and is well liked by staff, and students, and families, and she's definitely a part of the PGS family."

Kyle Campbell, a guidance counselor at PGS works closely with Govoni and had a part in introducing her to the school. "She's a team player. She has a caseload, but in addition to her caseload she's always saying if you need help or you want some support, she's there for us," said Campbell.

Despite the challenge of moving between both buildings, Govoni has made a great impression on the Triton District. She is a great fit into the community, staff said, and both the Middle School and Pine Grove are excited to have her on the team.

Hidden Gem

The Purpose and Goals of a Speech Therapist

By Lucas Bistany & Ryan Snow
Staff Writers

One in 12 kids is born with a speech impediment. But only half of those kids in the U.S. have gotten the help they need, according to the American Speech Language Hearing Association.

Without the help they need, speech problems stick with students, making life very difficult as they grow.

It was after World War II ended, when society began running somewhat normally, that speech problems in youth were first widely recognized. In the following few years, the profession of speech therapy was born.

A speech therapist is a person who helps kids who really struggle with the social aspect of life, such as students who have pronunciation issues, lisps, and other communication struggles. New Triton speech therapist Jennifer Messina said speech therapists sometimes goes unseen in their work, but they do a very important job for kids struggling to speak, communicate, and understand people. It's a difficult job requiring patience and creativity, she said.

"Patience is something that a speech therapist acquires with experience," she said. "Without Patience you'll have a hard time teaching students especially as a speech therapist."

Messina expressed her feelings on the important work she does behind the scenes. Speech therapy was introduced to her at a young age, she said, when she had been having a speech therapist help her in her youth. She explained how going through the struggles of speech problems at a young age gave her the gift of helping others with theirs.

Messina said her passion for being a speech therapist really showed early. During the interview she said being patience is a key virtue as a speech therapist.

Creativity was shown around her room with speech board games and activities that kids get to play at the end of class. It is clear that even though the year is young, Messina will have an impact on her students, even if it is not seen by all who go here.



Speech therapist Jennifer Messina works with a student (courtesy photo).

HAMMOND from page 1

On a personal note, Ms. Hammond is an avid Taylor Swift fan and really enjoys hang gliding."

In college, Hammond was a psychology major. She had a strong passion for working people through their problems so she began teaching high schoolers. She found herself at middle school later on, only to find her way back to the older crowd, which she prefers. The problems, stressors and challenges brought by high schoolers' lives differs greatly from middle school students and the obstacles they often encounter.

In the field of social work, people come to you with their problems and some of the conflicts brought to you may be heavy, said Hammond. Balancing your own emotions let alone can be difficult, so adding other people's problems on top of that can be challenging or sometimes triggering. When Hammond finds herself feeling overwhelmed or in distress, she tries to do the same thing she helps others do, whether it be taking time to herself or having somebody to talk to.

"If I'm feeling anxiety, I'm going to try to use those same skills I'm preaching to those I'm working with," she said.

Hammond explained that having supervisors in all of her internships, even when she's at work, has been immensely helpful for her career. Walking away from a work day can sometimes be difficult because that means turning your mind off, which isn't humanly possible, but luckily within the field of social work there are so many things built in to offer support.

In her internships, Hammond had to do process recordings where she'd have to take a situation and write about the various different perspectives on how people are feeling within those moments as well as how to adjust bias that may be incorporated. Supervisors helped by talking it through with her afterwards. Hammond remarked, "You're learning how you think and also how to support those tendencies when doing your job."

Hammond concluded that the favorite parts of her job "are getting to know students and then finding ways for small successes to create more successes and creating those building moments," she said. "And the momentum that you get from that, that feels very rewarding for [her] to see and be a part of."

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