

# **Welcome to Spartan Country!**

## **What is your educational and professional background?**

I am a Maine-Endwell graduate! From there, I attended SUNY Geneseo where I earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish and Adolescence Education. After graduating from Geneseo, I was lucky enough to land a job teaching high school Spanish at Candor Central School District from 2013 - 2022. During that time, I taught every level from Spanish 2 to Spanish 5 (SPAN 202), and really found a passion for the upper level courses. The District leadership at Candor during my time there was phenomenal and afforded me an opportunity to teach fewer classes during the day and also work as an Instructional Technology Specialist, where I got to work directly with my colleagues in the building to bring new and exciting learning experiences to their classrooms through integrating technology. This provided good experience that I leaned on when completing my Master's Degree in Instructional Technology from the University of Albany in 2018. Then, throughout the course of the pandemic, I worked closely with District leadership to take on some additional leadership responsibilities in the field of instructional technology, and found that I really enjoyed helping guide an organization, especially during such a deeply challenging time for educators. This coincided nicely with when I began my coursework in Educational Leadership at Binghamton University, and I worked closely with the Director of Instructional Technology during my administrative internship. I'm now working at the SCRIC, stationed primarily at Maine-Endwell as the Director of Technology. This is a position that I've aspired to for a while, and I couldn't be happier to be doing it at a district that has given me so much throughout my life.

## **What is your greatest accomplishment, so far, as an educator?**

### **What motivates you?**

One of the things that I am most proud of as an educator is that during my time as a high school Spanish teacher, I was able to take three groups on week-long trips to Spanish-speaking countries. In 2017, we went to Spain, in 2019, Peru, and then last year in 2022, we visited Spain (and Paris, France)! Each of these trips require about 18 months of planning and organizing, but that work is worth it every time. For many students, this was their first time out of the country, and for some, their first time on an airplane. Seeing their perspectives change and their mindset expand after having embarked on that journey is something that never gets old. It is some of the most meaningful learning I was able to provide to my students when I was a teacher. I am especially proud and thankful to have navigated our 2022 trip, due to the intense and ever-changing COVID restrictions that were still in place at that time. Over the three trips, I was able to bring this opportunity to about 60 students, parents, and even grandparents who came along. Continuing to bring next level and hopefully life-changing learning to as many people as possible is what motivates me.

## Is there anything that people would be surprised to know about you? Hidden talents? Favorite sports teams?

These questions are always tough because I think I'm pretty boring. One thing is that I can remember phone numbers, addresses, things like that, by heart, almost immediately.

### **OK, now for the fun questions: let's play "This or That"**

- 1. Dogs or Cats?** → Love them both but cats for sure.
- 2. Books or Movies?** → Depends on the book / movie
- 3. Ice Cream Cone or Dish?** → Cone
- 4. Laundry or Dishes?** → Definitely dishes. Laundry is my least favorite chore!
- 5. Apple or Android?** → My life wouldn't be the same without my iPhone and my MacBook Pro!
- 6. Pancakes or Waffles?** → Waffles
- 7. French Fries or Onion Rings?** → Fries

## Finally...What are your hopes for the Maine-Endwell school community as we move into the latter part of the school year?

I hope that we can continue to provide to our students and their families the positive, caring, high quality educational environment that this district has for so long. It is clear that our students, their families, and our educators are proud to be Spartans, and that our teachers and administrators care deeply about the students that come to school here every day. I hope we can continue that trend, and that I can actively contribute to this important work in my role as Director of Technology here at Maine-Endwell.