



Teacher Feature

Jeremy Shea knows first-hand what it's like to face the challenges of elementary school, especially as a student with a disability.

When he was in third grade (the same grade he teaches now,) Mr. Shea says he couldn't read, and tests determined he was dyslexic. He learned various strategies that helped him become a good writer and reader. He says there are still some things like proper nouns that are a bit tricky for him, but he's learned to rely on his strengths to help him succeed. Perhaps more importantly, he says his experience taught him "empathy for students who are struggling."

Now, it appears his disability hasn't held him back one bit. Mr. Shea grew up in Wilmette, graduated from New Trier H.S. and went on to study psychology at Earlham College. During his junior year, he took an early child development course which led him to become a teacher. He earned graduate degrees in education from both Northwestern University and National Louis University. He's proud to say he's spent 13 years at Meadowbrook teaching both third and fourth grade.

When he's not at school, Mr. Shea enjoys close ties to his family and strong roots in his hometown. He lives with his wife and three-year-old son, Owen, in his childhood home and was even married in the backyard there four years ago. His parents were also married in that same house in the living room. They now live nearby as does his sister who has four children who are four-years-old and younger. Regular Sunday night family dinners are loud! He also keeps in touch with four high school friends.

Mr. Shea is the main cook at home and follows a mostly paleo diet (no wheat, dairy or sugar) which keeps him feeling healthy, energetic and alert. He grows some of his own vegetables in his garden in the summer. His one weakness he says is the free food in the teachers' lounge, something he may have to deal with for many years since he's hoping to stay at Meadowbrook for the long haul.

Fun Facts about Jeremy Shea

Grew up attending Quaker meetings & follows the meditative part of the religion.
Enjoys bike riding through the Botanic Gardens with his family.
His education allows him to become a principal,
but he prefers to stay with his students in the classroom.

Curious about a teacher or staff member at Meadowbrook? Send a request for someone you would like to see featured to julieweinberg@me.com.