



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL TEACHERS SPECIALIZING IN SUMMER LEARNING

508-380-5720

josh@summerblazers.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Cassandra D.



Cassandra tutors both middle and upper school students. She is an upper school English teacher, a member of the academic support department, and the Junior Dean at an independent school in Waltham. Currently, she teaches 11th grade English and Honors English. A graduate of Holy Cross, Cassandra double majored in English and Psychology. She recently received her Master of Education specializing in Secondary English Education from Boston College. In her academic support role, Cassandra spends time with students working on skills such as **note taking, organizational strategies, time management, and executive functioning**. Cassandra is happy to tutor students on developing their **analytical and creative writing**, and she can also tutor students as they manage the challenging content of **summer reading**. In addition, Cassandra has experience tutoring the **verbal, reading, and writing sections of the SSAT and SAT**. Cassandra loves to read, watch the Patriots and Celtics, and engage

in numerous outdoor activities such as biking, golfing, tennis, and running. Cassandra is willing to drive 30-45 minutes from her home in Brighton, MA or 30-45 minutes from her location in Dennis, MA (Cape Cod).

Conor M.



Conor tutors both middle and upper school students. He is the chair of the English department at an independent school in Waltham. He is a 12-year veteran of the independent school world, 9 of which have also been in a variety of educational and administrative roles. Conor has taught every grade from 7th to 12th and has experience with a variety of pedagogies and subject matters. In the summer, he enjoys tutoring **analytical and creative writing**, and he can also tutor students as they manage the challenging content of **summer reading**. A graduate from the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Conor also holds a masters degree from Middlebury College. He enjoys reading, woodworking, and the New England Patriots. Conor is willing to drive 30 minutes from his home in Waltham.

CHRISTOPHER K.



Chris is an elementary and middle school art teacher at a private co-educational school located in Southborough. He has been teaching in the studio for the last eleven years where he enjoys working with a number of different media. Currently, Chris serves as his school's Visual Arts Coordinator. Much of his teaching centers on exposing students to the **elements and principles of design while also improving specific techniques used in drawing and compositional development**. Chris is available to work with your son or daughter on various drawing skills, exercises aimed to increase confidence in the studio, and further understanding of the elements of art. When Chris is not teaching, he specializes in printmaking and ceramics, and he has written two comic books over the last few years. Passionate about the times when the fine arts and pop culture crosses over, Chris helps students find their inspiration and creativity. Chris lives in Brighton and is willing to travel 40 minutes for a session.

DAN R.



Dan is a middle school English teacher at a private, co-ed independent school in Southborough. This is his 14th year teaching, and he has tutored and taught **SSAT prep, reading comprehension, and analytical writing**. Dan has also taught a special course geared towards **vocabulary expansion** and how to apply it into polished essays. Dan is more than willing to read a **summer reading** book alongside your son or daughter to prepare for upcoming assessments in the fall. Outside of teaching and advising, Dan coaches soccer and basketball. His hobbies include running, biking, poetry performance, all things Shakespeare, and keeping up with his two kids, ages 5 and 7. Dan is a big Boston sports fan and has been for thirty years! Dan lives in Southborough and is happy to drive as far as 30 minutes for tutoring sessions.

DEBBIE S.



Debbie is a fifth-grade math and science teacher at an independent school in Belmont, where she has been for six years. She works closely with the learning specialists at her school for both enrichment and remedial support, and she has worked with students on skills such as note taking, organizational strategies, time management, and executive functioning in addition to math, reading, writing, and science. She is excited to tutor students through entering grade 8 in math and support their development of problem-solving skills. She is also able to tutor students in **note taking, organizational skills, public speaking, science, or as they conquer summer reading and writing work**. When she is not teaching, Debbie loves to travel and to play soccer, basketball, tennis, and softball. She also has coached Middle School girls and boys soccer, girls basketball, girls and boys lacrosse, and co-ed track and field. Debbie has been with Summer Blazers since its inaugural summer and is willing to drive 30-45 minutes from her home in Boston, MA.

DEIRDRE R.



Deirdre teaches 7th -12th grade Art History, Studio Art and has taught 9th grade Literature at an independent all-boys school in Needham where she has worked for 16 years. After earning her B.A in English at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, she went on to earn a M.A in Irish Literature & History at Boston College. Deirdre approaches courses with an interdisciplinary approach to curriculum and has worked to integrate successful organizational strategies, note-taking, study techniques and pacing to her 7th and 8th grade curriculum. Teaching Art History has provided Deirdre with a broad and unique approach to tutoring. Over the years she has tutored **English, History/Social Studies, SAT prep, and college-prep essay writing**. In recent years, she has worked with **ESL students on reading and grammar** and is happy to read whatever texts students may have on their school summer reading. She has worked with students challenged by learning disabilities, intellectual challenges and emotional struggles. It gives her great joy to motivate, cheerlead and empower a young person with confidence and to foster a lifelong joy of learning! A co-moderator of the school newspaper and literary magazine, Deirdre enjoys working with students on their creative, expository, and persuasive writing. She has taught A.P Art History and Drawing & Painting Studio Art for 13 years and is happy to work with any aspiring artist. Active in various student life activities, Deirdre is also the Varsity Alpine Skiing and Varsity Sailing coach and enjoys outdoor activities and sports, cooking, and photography. She is willing to drive an hour from her home in Brookline, MA but also within Scituate, MA where she often visits her folks in summer months.

DEVAN F.



Devan is a fifth-grade teacher at an independent school in Boston who teaches math, reading, writing, and social studies. Prior to teaching in Boston, Devan spent five years teaching fifth grade English at an independent school in Southborough. For her undergraduate degree, Devan studied at Colby College where she majored in English and minored in Art History. She earned a Master of Professional Studies, a dual degree, in General Education and Special Education at Manhattanville College. This year marked her 9th year of teaching. Devan is ready to tutor students in rising fourth through sixth grades in **math, reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary development, and social studies**. Having designed and developed an English curriculum based on Teachers College Reading and Writing Workshop (Columbia University) Writer's Workshop model, Devan has much experience facilitating one-on-one writing conferences with students, and she hopes to either focus or incorporate writing instruction into her sessions. As a teacher of writing, Devan endeavors to provide authentic and engaging writing experiences which help students to further develop their narrative, opinion, information, and poetry writing skills. Ultimately, she wants her students to grow confident in their writing abilities and enjoy the challenges of the writing process. Outside of teaching, Devan loves running, skiing, reading, and visiting museums. Devan does not own a car, but is willing to travel on bus, T, or commuter rail within 45 minutes of her home in Cambridge.

ELLIE M.



Ellie is a **Latin and Spanish** teacher at an independent school in Brookline. She has taught a combination of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students for ten years, and she has been a teacher at both single-sex and co-ed schools. Spending her summers at different programs for students with learning disabilities has also provided her with experience in special education. She has tutored several students in Latin over the past few years, and she enjoys assisting them in building the fundamental structures and frameworks for learning languages. In addition to language courses, Ellie would happily tutor students in **history**, as she has taught Ancient Civilizations at several schools. Outside of teaching, Ellie enjoys coaching volleyball, running, reading, traveling, and spending quality time with her friends and family. She lives in Brighton and is willing to drive 30 minutes for a tutoring session.

JESS D.



Jess has a BA and MA in Spanish from the University of New Hampshire. She also studied for a year at the Universidad de Granada in Spain, and for a summer she studied at the Universidad de San Jose in Costa Rica. Currently, Jess teaches at an independent school in Osterville, MA where she teaches both **middle and upper school Spanish** (6-12). Her love of traveling has inspired her to take students abroad to Mexico, Spain and Costa Rica. She also coaches soccer and lacrosse, and she advises the Pink Ribbon Club, helping students to fundraise and raise awareness for breast cancer research. In her free time, Jess loves to get outside and play! She is a yoga instructor, she enjoys paddles on her SUP, and she plays in a summer lacrosse league. Jess also dedicates her time to volunteering at Falmouth Commodore games, the Falmouth Library Book Sale and the Wood's Hole Film Festival. Jess lives in Falmouth and is willing to travel to towns of Falmouth, Bourne (on the Cape side of the bridge), Sandwich, Mashpee, Cotuit, Marstons Mills, and Osterville.

JOSH L.



Josh is a middle school math, history, and English teacher at an independent school in Brookline. He has taught combinations of 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students for 20 years in both co-ed and single sex classrooms. Offering families a structured, systematic approach to learning new information or reviewing previously learned material, Josh will tutor all middle school ages in **language arts and mathematics**. Josh is also able to prepare students for the **SSAT, ISEE, and HSPT**. Outside of teaching, he coaches cross country, and his hobbies include running, golf, attending his kids' activities, and rooting for Boston sports teams. Josh lives in Dedham and Mashpee in the summer, and he is happy to drive as far as 45 minutes.

KARA M.



Having served in a variety of administrative and teaching capacities in independent schools for the last 13 years, Kara brings a wide variety of experience to **Spanish language and ESL**. Born in Mexico and having studied in Mexico, Cuba, Guatemala, and Spain, she possesses both an understanding of the language as well as the best methods for learners to develop their language skills. She has taught students in grades four through nine and is excited to work with Spanish learners of all levels. Kara believes firmly that students succeed best when they find excitement in their learning. She works diligently to help students discover what they are passionate about and to guide them in their journey as lifelong learners. Kara currently teaches Spanish at an independent school in Southborough, and she is willing to drive up to an hour away from her home in Lunenburg.

LLOYD D.



Lloyd is a graduate of Ithaca College and has worked as a band director for various schools for various levels. While living in Vermont, Lloyd had numerous leadership experiences as the lead conductor in multiple district level festivals. He is currently the Band/Jazz Director at an independent school in Southborough. As a trombonist, pianist, percussionist, and vocalist, Lloyd can tutor **beginning piano, beginning wind, brass and percussion and advanced brass and percussion**. Lloyd can also tutor beginning to advanced music theory and jazz improvisation. His specialty is brass instruments and percussion. As a drum set player, Lloyd can tutor all styles. Beginning band students looking to get a head start before they begin instruments can study and learn the basics before starting in the fall. Lloyd is willing to drive 30 minutes from his home in Southborough.

MARK M.



Mark is a middle school English teacher at a private school in Brookline. His work there focuses on reading comprehension, analysis of literature, and vocabulary development. Mark's work as a teacher began after a career as an editor at the Boston Globe, and he emphasizes the importance of clear, compelling, grammatically sound writing to his students. He can be of help to your son or daughter with **summer reading, writing assignments, and preparation for upcoming history courses**. Mark's interests include literature, history, music, fitness, and Boston's sports teams. He lives in Milton and would be happy to drive 30 minutes for tutoring sessions.

MIKE G.



Mike is an upper school mathematics teacher at an independent school on Cape Cod. His background is in pure math, having earned a BA and MA in the subject from Providence College and the University of Montana, respectively. He has worked with over 150 families in Massachusetts and Montana while working for private tutoring companies in both states. Mike's passion for math makes for a fun yet informative tutoring session; he can meet students at their level and quickly identify any gaps in learning. Mike is available to tutor **all math subjects from Pre-Algebra through AP Calculus and beyond**, as well as **standardized tests like the PSAT, SAT, ACT, and SAT II subject tests**. He can also help students prepare for high school chemistry and physics. Outside of the classroom, Mike enjoys hiking, cooking, rock climbing, and doing recreational math. He

lives in the mid-region of the Cape and is willing to drive up to 45 minutes for a tutoring session.

RARY D.



Rary is a mathematics teacher at an independent school in West Roxbury. She has been teaching mathematics to 7th-12th graders for over 15 years. Courses taught include **Pre-Algebra, Algebra I & II, Geometry, Trigonometry, AP Statistics, Analysis/Precalculus, and Math-Science Investigations**. She also tutored students in grades 4 through 12 for ten years prior to entering the teaching profession while working as an equity analyst in the finance industry. Rary holds an M.Ed. from Harvard University, an MBA from Boston University, and a BA from Bowdoin College, where she graduated summa cum laude/phi beta kappa as a mathematics major. She currently resides in Medfield and is looking to tutor students within a 30-40-minute drive from there. In addition to teaching, she enjoys swimming, cycling, baking, and spending time with family and friends.

RJ P.



RJ is a middle school math teacher at an independent school in Belmont where he has been for six years. He has taught and/or tutored students in grades 5 - 8 and specializes in **Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and ISEE/SSAT math prep**. Outside of teaching RJ enjoys sports, travelling, working around the house, and spending time with his two dogs Nate and Charlie. RJ lives in West Roxbury and South Yarmouth in the summer and is happy to drive as far as 30 minutes for tutoring sessions.

Teresa C.



Teresa is an upper school mathematics teacher at an independent school in Brookline. She has been an independent school math educator of 30 years (M.Ed), both in boarding and day schools. Teresa specializes in **Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. She is also a qualified ISEE and SSAT test prep teacher**. Outside of the classroom, Teresa enjoys walking, cooking, and crocheting. She is willing to drive 40 minutes from Newton.



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