

# Mustang Monthly



Memorial Middle School - 1 Memorial Dr, Middlebury, CT 06762

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Dear Readers,

For our first issue, our newspaper staff split into random groups. Instead of writing articles about our specific interests, we went into our building and found the teachers we know and adore and practiced our interview skills on them. Not only did we learn about writing for a newspaper, but we met new people. We had 6th, 7th, and 8th graders working together towards a common goal.

In each of our articles, we test out our own ideas and practices in journalism. We hope that you learn something interesting and valuable about each teacher we have featured.

For the rest of the year, we hope to incorporate our own interests and passions with the voices of our students and staff at MMS. We hope to be a voice in our community. We hope to hear from you as we continue our journey!

Thank you for reading!

Sincerely,  
The Mustang Monthly Staff

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# THE “POWERHOUSE” OF

## VERSATILITY

Writer: Riddhima Chaurasia

Editors & interviewers: Rory Thompson,  
Thomas Harris & Amaris Fontanez



*Mrs. Bronson, Music and Chorus  
Teacher at MMS*

Balancing raising animals in a barn, making things with fabric (such as quilts), raising two kids, and ending up with a career you never thought you would have.

Seems like a lot, right?

This is only part of the life of a lovely teacher here at MMS. Her name is Mrs. Bronson, and she only radiates and encourages positivity by treating everyone with kindness. We are so lucky to have her contribute to our school.

At 41 years old Mrs. Bronson has been working here since 2003, That's older than any of us students have been alive!

While being a teacher at MMS she balances Music & Chorus with notes and alarms and usually gets what the group prefers to do during chorus.

Mrs. Bronson also has a number of hobbies and interests, from loving nature to making quilts at home. She has raised two kids, Flynn & Kennedy, ages eleven and seven. She also own two goats and six chickens!

With all that, being herself is the best way she can express herself. Nevertheless, she encourages this upon all of us.

### “BE YOURSELF”

About five years of college later, Mrs. Bronson was hoping and planning to become a doctor or a physician's assistant. Mrs. Bronson told us that “becoming a teacher was at the bottom of my list of what I wanted to be.”

Eventually, Mrs. Bronson found a love and passion for seeing the beauty of music. She wanted to share this with others in the form of teaching.

After graduating, when she turned 23, she found herself becoming a music teacher. She was also a certified rock climbing instructor, musician, and mosquito researcher.

Mrs. Bronson is quite the teacher, with her numerous hobbies. Nonetheless, she wasn't expecting to become a teacher or know if she ever could. Sandy Adams kept her going and she found her way out.

## *Interviewing Mrs. Post*

By Elias Jabri, Ayla Feratovic, Kassidi Houck, Marlo Gabriele, and Ramin Qurbani

Everyone loves Mrs. Post. She's funny and genuinely such a fun and positive person to be around; since she's so popular in our school, we decided to give her an interview.

During this interview we found out a lot about her and her life growing up. Here's how it went.

We asked Mrs. Post about her teaching career and found out that she was a high school teacher for 38 years then decided it was time to take a break, she retired in 2005 but after being bored for a while decided to start subbing. The teacher gene has always been in her blood since she comes from a family of teachers, but she had other passions too, like dance and piano.

She has subbed in the region for about four years, but she has a life outside of school filled with things that most of our lives include: she reads, watches tv and loved to travel, specifically to Colonial Williamsburg.

She enjoys history which is fitting because one of her favorite classes to sub in is Social Studies, along with ELA.

## *Interview with Mr. Carpenter*

By Luke Bevilacqua, Ryan Murray, Evan Gilliam, Amaya Hernandez, Lily Scozzafava

Ever since working with his father at a young age, he has built an occupation out of his two passions, technology and engineering. With a persistent evolution through his pathway of becoming the technology education teacher here at Memorial Middle School. If you haven't already caught on, we are talking about Mr. Carpenter, the Tech Ed teacher here at MMS.

When he was young, Mr. Carpenter worked with his father on miniature projects. "I actually picked up the trade from my father, working with him on little projects in our garage," he says. In 8th grade, he aspired to be a teacher, although he wasn't sure what he wanted to teach. "In 8th grade, my teacher asked me what I wanted to be along with the other students, and I said, "I wanted to be a teacher."

There are numerous things Mr. Carpenter enjoys teaching here at Memorial Middle School. Teaching about coding and engineering are his passions. Some of his favorite units are the egg drop and 3d printing with Tinker, CAD, and other design websites. However, even though he enjoys these units he still says his favorite part of teaching is the kids. We also asked Mr. Carpenter what some of his hobbies are out of school. He says his favorite is definitely just tinkering with electronics, 3d printing for fun, and other engineering technologies.

Throughout Mr. Carpenter's professional pathway, he has worked diligently with students and colleagues to help make not just his class, but this school grow into a more enjoyable place. Numerous students and teachers have come to admire his teaching skills, and engineering courses; others have come to enjoy his sense of humor and generosity. Overall, Mr. Carpenter is an excellent teacher, a generous one, who cares for his occupation.



# From One Lab to Another Lab: An Interview With Mr. Titone

By Sophia Dickens, Akash Bajaj, Ariel Fontanez,  
and Donnie Scacco

Mr. Titone is the 7th grade science teacher at Memorial Middle School. He came to MMS during Covid-19 last year, in the early spring.

Because Mr. Titone joined midway through last year, there is a lot we don't know about him.

Before MMS, Mr. Titone worked at Torrington High School for 2 years. Prior to that, he worked in many different districts in Maine as an elementary and High School teacher.

Let's go back in time before Mr. Titone became a teacher. Before becoming an educator, he had an interesting lab job when he finished college. He worked for an ideation lab in New Jersey. That laboratory was responsible for monitoring aircraft engines, and making sure they worked properly.

How does that work exactly? Mr. Titone told us that someone who had an aircraft would take a sample of the oil, and then Mr. Titone would put it through a bunch of lab instruments.

What were they looking for in these tests? They would look for metal in the oil to see if the engine was working properly. In addition to planes, Mr. Titone would check the oil in land turbines too!



*Mr. Titone, 6th and 7th Grade Science Teacher*

Mr. Titone loved science but he also had an interest in Social Studies. He loved his Teacher Mr. Divo the 8th grade history teacher. Mr. Divo was a Vietnam veteran. He went to Vietnam after High School. Mr. Divo was not an ordinary social studies teacher he made social studies much more interesting.

In Mr. Divo's free time he would do revolutionary war reenactments!! That is not it though--he would bring into class canons there was one time Mr. Divo brought a musket into CLASS!!



# A Veteran Teacher, In More Ways Than One: Señora Radlinski

By Daniela Ardino, Megan Widlar, Marian Chesney-House, and Shaivi Gaddam

Here at MMS, everyone knows of Señora Radlinski as a kind, passionate, and hardworking teacher. However, we wanted to take a deeper dive into who Señora really is as a person and what hobbies take up her free time.

Let's hear more about what everyone's favorite 7th-grade Spanish teacher likes to do and who she is.

Q: What was it like in the Military?

A: Señora served for 8 years. She was an Army National guard, pre-September 11th. Señora was in the junior ROTC, which was a high school program. Señora's brother was also in the military. When she joined she knew it was going to be hard, "it was emotionally hard for me," Señora says, "I got yelled at a lot in the beginning." She didn't sleep very well through the nights, the lights were always on, the guards checked in on her, they made sure everyone was mentally safe. About 150 girls were there to start off with and over time there were only 25 girls left.

Q: What did you learn in Argentina?

A: "How to survive, I felt very lonely" Señora says. "People swore at me a lot". Mrs. Radlinski was just 16 when she left as an exchange student in Argentina. "I felt more confident in Argentina, even though I struggled academically, I never gave up." Her mom helped her, and she gained more independence throughout the months. Señora spent a whole year without her friends/family. By month 3 in Argentina, she felt very comfortable. By month 6, she was one of them in Argentina. She learned a lot about the culture & food. "When the year ended, and I returned home from Argentina, it felt weird. It was strange seeing people I haven't seen in a year."

Q: What is your favorite thing about teaching?

A: "The students," Señora says. "I loved teaching middle school, especially." 7th grade is her favorite grade to teach. Mrs. Radlinski couldn't teach really young or really old students. 7th grade Spanish was the perfect fit for her. She loves getting to see and learn every student's personality.

Q: What are some of your hobbies and interests?

A: Señora loves to swim, bike, read, and run. Mainly traveling to national parks and hiking. "I love the outdoors." Señora says but overall hiking is her favorite hobby. Traveling is something Mrs. Radlinski loves to do. She has traveled to many places such as Europe, Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Dominican Republic, Bermuda, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and in the U.S a lot all over the west coast. One other activity that Señora loves to do is baking and making art with her daughter, Mia.

As expressed, Señora Radlinski's life events have made a huge impact on who she is today. Her patience, helpfulness, and bravery make her an impactful teacher. We are so glad to have interviewed her as her perspective helped us uncover who she is outside of teaching!



# Around the Diamond with Mr. Buckley

By Jamaryz Ruiz, Caileigh Callahan, and Nora Santoli

Mr. Buckley is a 7th and 8th-grade social studies teacher. He has worked at MMS for over 20 years! He first discovered social studies in 4th grade and from then on his love for social studies grew as he got older. He loved it so much he traveled the world later on in his life!

He says “the major difference between my old middle school and this middle school is that in my old school our grades were 7-12 and a 7th grader to a 12th grader is a very big difference!”

He also has 3 daughters and one grandson.

We asked Mr. Buckley if he prefers textbooks over computers. He said he prefers textbooks over computers because he believes reading is very important.

His favorite unit to teach is the Revolutionary War. In his 20 years at MMS, he has taught all of American history!

Did you know Mr. Buckley's favorite sport is baseball? Mr. Buckley Played baseball for 8 years. His favorite sport to coach is any sport that is in season, he loves them all!

Overall his favorite thing about the school is the students: he finds them very funny!

Did you know that Mr. Buckley has taught sixth, seventh, and eighth grade? Even though Mr. Buckley has only taught one year of sixth grade, that's pretty amazing.

We then asked him, “Was it hard to teach sixth graders?”

He responded with, “ It was hard. They were so tiny I didn't know what to do with them. That's why I made them play pepper a lot in that class.” Almost every kid that has gone through his class always loves him afterwards. We think the reason why is because he makes social studies fun and he has a great personality.

In his class, if you ever have time at the end you get to play pepper. Pepper is basically like a knockout (A Basketball game) but with grounders.

And his students know that sometimes he can get off task.

For example, one minute he will be talking about Italy and the next he will start talking about how he and his friend got separated in Egypt and lost their passports. Or the class could be having a discussion about the Egyptians and somehow end up talking about the Red Sox's last game. you may find Mr. Buckley talking about the Red Sox a lot because it's his favorite baseball team.

Or you might see him in the morning with coffee in one hand and a green beverage his wife makes him drink to stay healthy.

If you ever go into his room you might see a painting and a sculpture above the door that is from his first and last sixth-grade class. He truly loves the students here at MMS.

So, the next time you see Mr. Buckley in the hallway say, “Good morning!” or “Thanks for all your work!” and he will surely appreciate it.



# *Student Turned Teacher, Mrs. Grieder*

**BY ANTHONY MANCINI, ALLIE MCNERNEY,  
JASLEENA THIND AND EMMA TAGLIALATELLA**

There's no doubt Mrs. Grieder has made an impact on our school. From supervising nature's classroom cabins, running student government and teaching 6th grade science, Mrs. Grieder has always been students' favorite teacher! As some may know, Mrs. Grieder attended MMS before becoming a teacher here. MMS has been through many changes over time throughout Covid, and what better way to reflect on these changes than through a former student and now teacher!

When talking about the school, Mrs. Grieder confirmed that MMS was "very different" when she was a student. What we now know as the Tech ed room used to be the main office. She also mentioned that Memorial used to include 5th grade. In fact, her 5th grade classroom then, is now the Art room!

Mrs. Grieder loved her middle school years at MMS and thinks fondly of her teachers and friends. When asked if she liked being a student or teacher more, she said "I like being a teacher better because I can help kids to get to their "lightbulb" moments and guide them to opportunities for their future!" She has certainly done this as a science teacher, though she did mention that she has taught ELA and math at MMS as well.

Her inspiration when teaching science comes from her former science teacher at Memorial, Mr. Sasca. Mrs. Grieder recalls the "hands on projects" she would do in his class, and refers to Mr. Sasca as her favorite teacher,

There are a lot of great things about MMS. The sports, extracurriculars, teachers, and other things make the school great. Out of all these options, Mrs. Grieder says her favorite thing about MMS are the kids. She describes the student body as "fun and engaging."

Every student at MMS should be lucky to have Mrs. Grieder.





# “Wise Words from Mr. Walsh”



**BY: OLIVIA WILLIAMS, LILY MASI, ANNIE GREENWOOD, CAMILA REYES, AND  
EMMA SANDER**

Did you know that almost 100% of teachers have a life outside of school? They go home every day. They go shopping for food, clothes, or just whatever they want. They might even have a family too. I know right? So mind-blowing. It's hard to imagine your teacher doing something outside of just bossing you around, and assigning 3 thousand word essays.

Mr. Walsh is one of those teachers who makes you feel like you're one of his own kids. He's witty, kind, and knows how to make class fun. Mr. Walsh is the 6th and 7th grade Social Studies teacher and taught English for 7th grade last year. He “lives” at the end of the 7th-grade hall by the stairs in room 208. Other than being a teacher, Mr. Walsh is a big family guy and has some interesting facts about himself. He also had a pretty cool life growing up.

## Family IS everything.

He has three kids who are all boys: two who are twins are sophomores in high school and one is a freshman in college. He is very proud of them. Next, we asked Mr. Walsh if he had any pets. He said “no pets that we know of”. We asked if he would tell us his parent's jobs. He said his mother was a teacher and his father was a Superintendent. The scariest moment of his life is when he got locked out of his car and couldn't pick up his kids. They got home safely though because they found a ride home. We soon asked how he met his wife Karen: he met her at his job and they soon after had gotten married. The happiest moment of his life was when he saw his children being born and marrying the love of his life.

## Teaching Career

“I became a teacher because I really liked teaching people new things and I was doing that at my previous job,” says Mr. Walsh. Mr. Walsh doesn't have a preference for 7th grade or 6th grade. He likes them for different reasons. He likes to teach 6th grade because they are new and you can help mold them. He likes to teach 7th grade because he can teach them more interesting and big topics. He doesn't have a favorite student but he does have a favorite subject, which is social studies. He did teach ELA for a while, but he's always liked social studies.

## Something we bet you didn't know

Mr. Walsh's birthday is January 27th. He loves the store Jos A Banks: he says he likes the store because “the clothes are the best”. Mr. Walsh's biggest dream is to go skydiving. He is also able to ride a bike and his favorite colors are black and blue. We asked him what his talent is and he says “don't really have one but I'm good at fishing.” He owns a Ram Truck and he likes all food but he likes Chinese food the best.





(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

Mr. Walsh has many different childhood stories or fun stories in general about him. It goes from his favorite T.V show, Yellowstone, to when he listened to heavy metal and had long hair. He claims in his day he was “a good student with a few bad days”. He may have liked things that would consider him a “bad student” but he did well in his student career. He went to Holy Cross in high school. He also went to CCSU and Quinnipiac in college. Speaking of school, one day he was in a rush and put on two different shoes to go to work!

A question that many people want to know is; what is a small moment story? Well, since Mr. Walsh was an English teacher, he has the answer that we all need! “A small moment story always needs to have a lesson. A lesson learned is don't wait till the very last minute to get things done! I definitely blew a project or two in my time and ‘cause I waited till the last minute so I'd say you don't wait until the last minute.” Wise words from Mr. Walsh!

Another thing that people are wondering is... what was Mr. Walsh's childhood like? Well to get this out of the way, it's probably a lot like our childhood. But, just because it is, doesn't mean it isn't special. He liked to play sports as a child. He played baseball and basketball and it was a joy to him. Though he didn't have a nickname, people just called him Walsh.

Getting to know your teacher is beneficial in many ways. You might now understand why Mr. Walsh teaches the way he does, or why he wanted to teach Social Studies. Your teachers are people just like you. They're like puff pastries, filled with hundreds of layers underneath the bossy-essay-assigned outside. They may even like letting their kids understand more about them. Just asking someone a simple question is proven to make you more likable and might help you stand out more (helping your test scores along the way, too). Maybe next time when you have a moment with your teacher, you'll try to get to know them and dive deeper past their puffy outsides.

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# So, how did we do?

*We want your feedback, and we want it now!*

*Let us know what you think of our first issue.*

*Visit our Mustang Monthly Google Classroom page & complete the “Issue #1 Feedback Form.”*

*Thanks, and we'll see you next month!*

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