

Article by Lindsay Martinez Paredes, Junior, Norwalk High School

Lindsay interviews Elizabeth Moran

Introduce yourself and tell me about yourself.

My name is Elizabeth Moran and I am a school counselor at Norwalk High School. This is my third year at NHS and as a school counselor. Prior to coming to Norwalk High, I was in the social service field as a child protection social worker. I left my previous job, returned to school to obtain my master's degree in school counseling, and was lucky to land an internship here at NHS.

What is special about Norwalk High School?

The students and the staff. The students bring a lot of energy to the building. I really enjoy the different students' personalities and learning about them as individuals, not just as students. Many are very funny as well. The staff at NHS has always been very welcoming towards me. My colleagues are willing to lend a hand or work on a student issue collaboratively.

What is special about Norwalk Public Schools?

I love the diversity of our student and staff populations. It is a true "melting pot" which I feel has so many benefits. Students are able to learn/ engage in activities, events, assemblies on culture, race, religion, or ethnicity they might not know so much about.

Tell me a time you were proud to be an educator.

I feel proud often, but particularly around graduation time. I love to see the excitement when a student gets into one of their top choice colleges, or a student who is struggling academically can pull through and graduate with their peers. At graduation I feel like a proud parent watching everyone walk across the stage and receive their diplomas as I know how hard they all worked to get there, despite various challenges they have faced along the way.

Who is your hero? Who is your teaching inspiration? Why?

I can't say that I have a hero or someone I necessarily look up to. I feel I am my own hero. As for my teaching/ counseling inspiration, I would say Shanda Baskin and Chelsey Docimo, both counselors at NHS. I have learned a lot from both. Mrs. Baskin was my internship liaison and showed me the ropes of the job when I knew nothing. Dr. Docimo has been a mentor for me. She has been in this field for a long time and knows a lot about every aspect of the job.

How did you take care of your mental health?

I like to spend time with people that I love; my children, family, partner, dog, and friends. I enjoy going away; even if it is for a weekend to get out of town and do something different.