



Teacher Feature

Jean Viviano has worked with children her entire life, teaching three different grades, coaching youth sports and working as a camp counselor. Now, after 26 years at Meadowbrook, she says with confidence that teaching second grade is the “best kept secret.”

Mrs. Viviano grew up on Chicago’s South Side and attended St. Francis De Sales H.S. She says she always knew she wanted to become a teacher and was drawn to spending time with kids including entertaining her younger brother, working as a counselor at Camp Timberlee in Wisconsin and babysitting. She also has a passion for sports, playing softball and basketball during high school, and then walking onto the softball team when she was a student pursuing her education degree at Trinity College. During that time, she combined her interest in working with children and her love for sports by coaching youth basketball. Post-college, she played on a co-ed recreational softball team with other Meadowbrook teachers, but she turned in her mitt about 5 years ago.

While she no longer competes in athletics, Mrs. Viviano is still very much involved in sports as a parent of two high school athletes. She says the next best thing to playing sports is coaching her kids’ teams (which she did when they were younger) and watching them compete. She has spent the better part of the last ten years traveling to basketball, softball, volleyball and baseball games to watch her kids play. She enjoys celebrating their victories with them and knows the heartaches aren’t easy, but she appreciates the learning opportunities that come along with them. Mrs. Viviano says her experience as a parent has helped her become a better teacher because she is “living the moments many parents are going through,” saying she is more compassionate and connected to her students and their families as a result.

It all adds up to a very satisfying career. “I love teaching reading and writing and watching them grow,” she says.

Fun Facts about Jean Viviano

- Lives in Vernon Hills with her husband, two children and twin dogs, Bingo & Bandit.
- Paternal grandparents were Native American and is a member of the Cherokee nation.
- Started at Meadowbrook as an aide in special education.
- She & her husband named their previous dog Eddie because they are both educators.



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