



Teacher Feature

Alli Weiner is full of energy and super outgoing, so it's hard to believe this first grade teacher used to be shy. "Camp changed me," she says. "I felt like myself and was accepted for me," she explains reflecting on her seven years at Chippewa where she was both a camper and a counselor. She later became a counselor at a local day camp which led her to Meadowbrook.

Miss Weiner grew up in the Willows where Glenview and Northbrook meet. She attended Willowbrook Elementary School, Maple Jr. High and graduated from GBS. She says she always knew she wanted to work with kids and found an opportunity to interact with young students even while she was in high school. At that time, she participated in the Child Development Program which allowed her to volunteer in a pre-school and help regularly at an elementary school. Now, she's on the other end of this program hosting a high school student who visits her classroom once a week to see what it's like to be a teacher.

After high school, Miss Weiner attended Miami of Ohio University where she earned a degree in early childhood education. She spent summers working as an assistant to Meadowbrook's Tom Rosenbaum on the pool deck at Apachi Day Camp. Mr. Rosenbaum passed on her resume to Mr. Thome, and he hired her as an aide to Miss Verne and Mrs. Lifshitz. In 2013, she became a first grade teacher, and now her first students are in their final year at Meadowbrook.

During her time away from Meadowbrook, Miss Weiner is still teaching and learning herself. Last summer, she traveled to Israel where she spent a month teaching English to fifth grade students. "I wanted to do something to make me excited about teaching in a different way," she said. She has also taught summer school and is pursuing a master's degree at DePaul University to become a reading specialist.

Miss Weiner is also a student in the kitchen. She loves to cook and bake as a way to de-stress. She says she enjoys the satisfaction of making something that she knows is going to be good. She watches the Food Network for recipes, but she also has a knack for looking at a few ingredients and figuring out what to do with them.

That skill of improvising in the kitchen has come in handy in the classroom. "You have to be a quick decision maker because if a lesson's not going well, you have to make a change," she said, adding, "you also need a lot of energy."

Fun Facts about Alli Weiner

- Lives in East Lakeview & works out regularly at F45 in the city
- Loves Taylor Swift & shopping
- Sister was an aide to Mr. Shea and now teaches in Deerfield