

A Happy Return for Former Potomac Falls Teacher Cadet



As the song notes “high school never ends.”

And for Holly Myers, that’s a good thing.

Myers, one of the original members of the teacher cadet program at Potomac Falls High School four years ago, returned to her alma mater in September to do her student teaching. She stayed on as a long-term substitute when one of her former teachers, Karen Curtis, went on maternity leave.

Susan Corwine, who has overseen the teacher cadet program at Potomac Falls since its inception, said she knew from the start that Myers would be an excellent teacher.

“She’s always wanted to be a teacher.

“She’s very organized. She’s very creative. She’s a very caring individual. She has really high morals and values. She always wants to know something new, a learner. She’s a natural.”

Myers, who attends Liberty University, said the teacher cadet program gave her a solid grounding for college.

“It was equivalent to my Education 125 class. It was comparable to a college course.”

The teacher cadet program also exposed her to the discipline, family and consumer science, which she wants to teach.

“I’ve wanted to be a teacher, but not a family and consumer science teacher. Before the field experience, I was deciding where to go.”

Corwine nudged her toward family and consumer science.

“She said ‘I think you’d be really great because you use a lot of creative thought.’ That’s one of my strengths.”

Knowing what her area of study would be narrowed her choice of colleges. Virginia Tech and Liberty were the only state schools with family and consumer science programs and Liberty was already one of Myers’ choices.

Myers’ name was Holly Anfindsen when she graduated from Potomac Falls. She and her husband, Nathan, married in August. Though she brought a different name back to school, she had to fight some familiar perceptions in establishing herself as a teacher.

"It's been a little difficult because I still have siblings that go here...Their friends know me as 'Holly' when they come over to my parents' house. It's that respect issue; they want to call me Holly in the halls. It's Mrs. Myers now. In the classroom, they don't see me as their peer, but definitely not someone giving direction."

Then there's dealing with her former teachers as colleagues.

"That's interesting too. Teachers that I didn't have in high school, I feel comfortable using their first name. But teachers I had for class, it's hard."

There are some advantages to coming back to your former high school, she added.

"I feel comfortable here. I know the halls, I know where to go."

As a teacher, Myers said she now appreciates the amount of work teachers and administrators put in to running the school, things she didn't see as a student. She knows what department heads do now from a teaching perspective and how administrative support makes the school function.

Myers also has learned just how much studying and work go into being an effective teacher.

"They tell you during student teaching you're not allowed to have a job. I was like 'That's weird.' But then when I got here it was like 'When would I work?'"

"I stay after school and come in early...These are things I love to do, but it's a long day."

Myers, who ends her long-term substitute stint in January, said she'll leave Potomac Falls with a new appreciation for the education she received. "Loudoun County is a really great school system. I have some experience in schools in Lynchburg and it's not quite the same."

Her future plans are to return to Lynchburg, finish her senior year at Liberty, and then begin a master's degree in special education.

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