



Natasha Dobbins – Anaheim Ducks

Natasha's hometown team is the Anaheim Ducks. She teaches AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at Dartmouth Middle School and has been a teacher for 30 years. Natasha built the AVID program at Dartmouth from the ground up and her hard work paid off in 2017 when the school became formally certified as a National Demonstration School and Site of Distinction. Natasha has been named Educator of the Year at Dartmouth Middle School in 2007 and 2021 as well as a finalist for the California League of Middle Schools award in 2013.

Angelica Abbey – Arizona Coyotes

Angelica's hometown team is the Arizona Coyotes. She teaches 6th grade at Frye Elementary School and has been a teacher for six years. Angelica became a teacher because she had amazing teachers growing up who inspired her to work hard and continue to learn! Angelica loves the magic of learning and being able to build a community with her students and watch them grow. Outside of the classroom, Angelica serves as the school's Student Council Sponsor, Social Media Manager and PTO President.

Nicholas D. Penberthy - Buffalo Sabres

Nicholas' hometown team is the Buffalo Sabres. He teaches 5th grade at Pinehurst Elementary School and has been a teacher for seven years. Nicholas became a teacher because of the positive impact you can have on a child's life. Nicholas believes that every day of teaching is unique and presents its own challenges, which is why he has grown to love the profession. Outside of the classroom, Nicholas coaches boys varsity volleyball at the high school and has created youth outreach programs to encourage students to become more involved with the sport.

Alicia Koepke – Chicago Blackhawks

Alicia's hometown team is the Chicago Blackhawks. She teaches 6th and 7th grade STEM at Chippewa Middle School and has been a teacher for 11 years. Alicia loves teaching STEM because students can use problem solving and critical thinking skills to complete various challenges with their teams. She also loves the excitement students have when they are successful! Outside of the classroom, Alicia oversees the Coding Club, Invention Convention and leads the PBIS team that rewards students for positive behavior.

Deanna Kersten - Colorado Avalanche

Deanna's hometown team is the Colorado Avalanche. She teaches 2nd grade at Independence Elementary and has been a teacher for 13 years. Deanna became a teacher because she wanted to make a difference and was inspired by others to work with children. What she loves the most about teaching are the "light bulb moments" when students who are frustrated finally understand a concept she is trying to teach! Outside of the classroom, Deanna works with her own children's sports teams in the community and her husband's baseball team.

Mark Reed - Columbus Blue Jackets

Mark's hometown team is the Columbus Blue Jackets. He teaches 7th grade Science at Ashland Middle School and has been a teacher for 35 years. Mark became a teacher when working for a park district on a historical farm and had the opportunity to work with a child with special needs. What Mark loves the most about teaching is seeing that "aha" moment in discovery. Outside of the classroom, Mark volunteers as a coach for Special Olympics and was the youth pastor at his church for several years. He also enjoys fishing, playing sports and watching hockey.

Katherine Carswell - Detroit Red Wings

Katherine's hometown team is the Detroit Red Wings. She teaches 6th grade Science at AGS Fenton Middle School and has been a teacher for 17 years. Katherine's favorite part of teaching is watching students have "aha" moments! Outside of the classroom, Katherine is an elected school board member in her children's school district.

Matthew Martin - Edmonton Oilers

Matthew's hometown team is the Edmonton Oilers. He teaches Grade 6 ELA, Math, Religion and Science at Our Lady of Mount Carmel and has been a teacher for one year. Matthew became a teacher to be a positive role model and provide students with the same great experiences that were given to him as a child. What he loves the most about teaching is working with youth and seeing them grow their appreciation for learning. Outside of the classroom, Matthew is the hockey athletic director and head instructor at his school.

Elaine Slesinski - Florida Panthers

Elaine's hometown team is the Florida Panthers. She teaches 7th grade Science at Woodlands Middle School and has been a teacher for 20 years. Elaine strives every day to be the teacher that she would have wanted her son to have. She works with students who are at-risk of failing and helps to support them in successfully completing the requirements for promotion. Elaine believes in building relationships to help every student be their best self.

Katie Miller - Minnesota Wild

Katie's hometown team is the Minnesota Wild. She teaches 8th grade Science at Meyer Middle School and has been a teacher for 24 years. Katie became a teacher to share her love of science with young students who are interested in applying science content to their own experiences. Katie covers the chemistry of thermal energy, states of matter and the physics of mechanical energy in her class and Future Goals fits well within those lessons!

Jackie Withstandley - New Jersey Devils

Jackie's hometown team is the New Jersey Devils. She teaches Science at Howell Middle School North and has been a teacher for 25 years. Jackie became a teacher to help others learn while making them feel successful in her classroom. She likes to make her students feel like they can be successful no matter what their circumstances are and tries to inspire them to never give up! Outside of the classroom, Jackie is involved with collecting food donations for a local food pantry and running a fundraiser for Howell Historical Society.

Christine Weltner – New York Islanders

Christine's hometown team is the New York Islanders. She teaches at P.S. 166 Q and has been a teacher for 29 years. Christine started her career teaching English language learners in grades K-3. She used music to help students learn the English language and soon after became a part of the dual language program where she co-designed curriculum for students to learn English and Spanish, simultaneously. Christine now implements the gifted and talented program at her school, where she provides students with every opportunity to enrich and accelerate their learning needs. Christine became a teacher because she wanted to meet the needs of every student, regardless of their abilities.

Margarette Desilus-Lacon – New York Rangers

Margarette's hometown team is the New York Rangers. She teaches Computer Science at William McKinley I.S. 259 and has been a teacher for 18 years. Margarette saw teaching as her calling and is grateful to have answered that call. Outside of the classroom, Margarette created the Code Squad, a coding club comprised of sixth graders who excel in coding and help other students complete coding projects. The Code Squad has been featured in the media and is considered Margarette's greatest accomplishment in her career.

Sherrill Farmer - Pittsburgh Penguins

Sherrill's hometown team is the Pittsburgh Penguins. She teaches 6th grade Math and Science at Avalon Elementary and has been a teacher for 25 years. Sherrill became a teacher because of her deep love of learning and desire to pass it on to others. Sherrill loves seeing students discover their passions, experience success in learning and understand the importance of perseverance. Outside of the classroom, Sherrill has written grants to fund school gardens and teach students the skills to grow their own vegetables as well as the importance of healthy eating. When she was a child, Sherrill's dream job was to be the CEO of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Wendy Sanchez – San Jose Sharks

Wendy's hometown team is the San Jose Sharks. She teaches 4th grade at Woodrow Wilson Elementary and has been a teacher for 13 years. Wendy became a teacher to make a difference and show her students that anything is possible if you work hard! Outside of the classroom, Wendy runs the school safety patrol and is the safe routes coordinator. In addition, she helps to coordinate the book fair and other events and fundraisers. Wendy loves to support the Arts and STEM programs.

Matt Jernigan - St. Louis Blues

Matt's hometown team is the St. Louis Blues. He teaches Business and Technology at Lebanon Middle School and has been a teacher for 15 years. Matt became a teacher to make a positive impact on students through sports and technology. He loves the relationships he builds with students through school and coaching. Outside of the classroom, Matt has been a soccer coach for the High School for 15 years.

Jennifer Tilston - Toronto Maple Leafs

Jennifer's hometown team is the Toronto Maple Leafs. She teaches Grades 5 & 6 AB at Ellis Public School and has been a teacher for seven years. Jennifer loves connecting with students and having fun in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, Jennifer has been involved with Espanola Minor Ball and Espanola Little Theatre. In her free time she enjoys jogging, hiking and snowshoeing.

Kelley Ward - Vegas Golden Knights

Kelly's hometown team is the Vegas Golden Knights. She teaches 4th grade English Language Arts at Aggie Roberts ES school and has been a teacher for four years. Kelly has always wanted to be a teacher because she believes all children need at least one person in their lives to rely on. Kelly loves to make an impact on her students and build a community where they feel safe.

Stephanie Hiemstra - Washington Capitals

Stephanie's hometown team is the Washington Capitals. She teaches 6th-8th grade Business and Computers at William Byrd Middle School and has been a teacher for 26 years. Stephanie originally went to school for accounting, however, changed majors when she decided she would rather teach accounting! Stephanie loves teaching to make a difference in her students' lives and to help them develop computer skills for future careers.

Jaime Paredes - Winnipeg Jets

Jaime's hometown team is the Winnipeg Jets. He teaches grades 3-8 STEM at Eriksdale School and has been a teacher for the past two years. Jaime was motivated to become a teacher after working with children for seven years. What Jaime loves the most about teaching is the relationships he has developed with his students. Outside of the classroom, Jaime coaches varsity volleyball and helps run an NHL Club at his school.