

# EDUCATION ON Boyer 4th

The campus newsletter of the Messiah University Education Department

Issue 34 | November/December 2024



AN ALUM'S  
DISSERTATION  
ON TEACHERS'  
FINANCIAL  
LITERACY

COMMUNITY  
LEARNING  
ABOUT  
DISABILITY  
EDUCATION

AUTHOR &  
ILLUSTRATOR  
DON TATE'S  
VISIT CAMPUS

*In Every Issue*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR, STUDENTS IN THE DEPARTMENT, TECHNOLOGY CORNER, PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD, PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT, ALUMNI ADVICE, DEVOTIONAL, UPCOMING EVENTS



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

DR. TINA KELLER



December 2024

This fall, I decided to expand my daffodil gardens. I researched and purchased unique bulbs from Holland and planted them in the ground before frost. As I placed each bulb in the still warm earth I thought about the approaching winter months. It's a season when the earth rests, but something beautiful is taking shape beneath the surface. Then with spring's arrival, the gorgeous blooms emerge. Planting a bulb is a quiet act of faith.

I realized that planting bulbs for future beauty is not unlike the work of teachers. While of course, we can see learning in the immediate, more often it takes time to fully come to fruition. In all truth, we may never know the growth of future springs. We may never see how our actions, our words of encouragement, our advocacy, or just our presence impact our students. We have faith and hope, trusting that with time, the warmth of the sun, and the nurturing care of the seasons, something amazing will emerge.

My dear teachers, do not lose hope in your students' future beauty and growth. Our daily acts of faith in the future of our students are what sustains us and is a hope worth nurturing. We are not alone in the time between hope and emergence. We can place our hope in the ultimate teacher, nurturer, and sustainer.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31, NIV)



As we finish our fall semester, it is my prayer that we support one another as we hope for the future.

With gratitude and hope for the seasons ahead,

*Dr. Keller*

## On the Cover:

Award-winning author and illustrator Don Tate addresses a crowd of students, faculty, and community members

# DEVOTIONAL

A MONTHLY DEVOTION WRITTEN BY MESSIAH  
UNIVERSITY EDUCATION STUDENTS.

## PACK LIGHT

A TRAVEL DEVOTIONAL  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

(LEARNING THAT LESS IS MORE. WE NEED TO  
LEAVE OUR EXTRA BAGGAGE AT HOME.)



ONE OF THE HARDEST LESSONS TO LEARN AS A TRAVELER IS TO PACK LIGHT. WHEN WE WERE PREPARING TO TAKE A ROAD TRIP, WE SEARCHED THE INTERNET FOR DAYS ON WHAT TO PACK ON A CAMPING TRIP. WE MADE OUR LIST AND CHECKED IT TWICE. WE HAD WANTED TO ENSURE WE COVERED EVERYTHING WE COULD THINK OF NEEDING FOR THE NEXT 2 WEEKS ON THE ROAD. AS MUCH AS WE HAD TRIED TO KEEP OUR PACKING LIST CONCISE WHEN IT CAME TIME TO PACK UP THE MINIVAN, WE REALIZED QUICKLY JUST HOW MUCH WE HAD OVERPACKED. ALL OF OUR GEAR WAS NOT GOING TO FIT INTO THE SMALL TRUNK OF THE RENTAL CAR. WE HAD TO LEAVE OUR EXTRA BAGGAGE BEHIND AND CUT DOWN ON THE EXTRA THINGS WE WERE TRYING TO BRING WITH US.

MUCH LIKE THAT MINIVAN, WE OFTENTIMES TRY TO OVERPACK OUR LIVES WITH OUR EXTRA BAGGAGE. WE HOLD ON TO THINGS THAT NO LONGER SERVE US. THINGS LIKE HURT, HATRED, GRUDGES, AND SHAME. HOWEVER, THE BIBLE TELLS US TO THROW THESE BURDENS DOWN AT THE FEET OF JESUS. PSALM 55:22 SAYS TO "CAST YOUR CARES ON THE LORD AND HE WILL SUSTAIN YOU." GOD DOES NOT WANT US TO CARRY AROUND OUR EXCESS EMOTIONAL BAGGAGE. HE WANTS US TO ENJOY LIFE, AND LIVE IT FRUITFULLY. HE WANTS US TO EXPERIENCE JOY AND HAPPINESS WHEN WE START OUR NEW LIVES IN CHRIST. WHEN WE ACCEPT JESUS INTO OUR HEARTS, WE ARE BORN ANEW. WE MUST ASK GOD TO HELP US UNPACK OUR BAGGAGE. WE NEED TO TAKE INVENTORY OF WHAT THINGS GOD WANTS IN OUR LIVES AND ASK GOD TO HELP US TO LOOK AT OUR HEARTS AND TO ELIMINATE ANY UNNECESSARY BAGGAGE. WE MUST LEARN TO PACK LIGHT SO THAT GOD'S LIGHT MAY SHINE THROUGH US AND WE CAN POUR INTO OTHERS. PROVERBS 3:5-6 SAYS "TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS SUBMIT TO HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT". THE BIBLE TELLS US THAT ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TO CAST OUR WORRIES ON THE LORD AND THE LORD PROMISES TO SUSTAIN US AND TO PROVIDE FOR US, AND ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TALK WITH HIM.



WRITTEN BY: BELLA WHEATON

# Playing to Learn

*By: Lindsey Blenkhorn*

This semester, I have been exploring making playground-like structures, and sculptures that can be used as inspiration and examples of tension and balance in a classroom. I decided to do a sculpture for the future teachers lounge because that is a spot on campus that is supposed to be inspirational for future teachers, and I was interested in the antique desks they had there. I looked at what school playgrounds looked like during the time when those desks were made and based my form off of the shapes I saw in those playgrounds. They were mostly made up of rectangles and triangles. I also included torn book pages collaged on the top of the forms as well as the blocks under the legs of the desk. Books are a very important part of education, but so is play. Especially in art, a lot of discovery can be made through play, so I brought book pages into this sculpture to connect education with play. Play is the foundation of learning, which is why I included the book pages under the feet of the desk as well. The playground structure supports education because it can be used as inspiration in a classroom to show successful use of tension in an art place, but also because play is an important part of education.



# HEARD IN THE CLASSROOM

*What are we talking  
about this month?*



## Julia Foster

In Teaching English Learners K-12 with Dr. Keller, we draw from lessons and experiences with English learners to learn how best to teach students who do not know English. One of the main aspects of the course is tutoring English learners outside of class which has been an impactful experience for most people in the class. Getting to experience building relationships with those who have different backgrounds was very eye opening and beneficial for me. I have really enjoyed the way that Dr. Keller has taught this class and has given us great opportunities to experience and discuss the perspective of English learners in general education classrooms.

## Sophia DiPrimeo

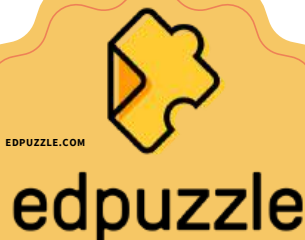
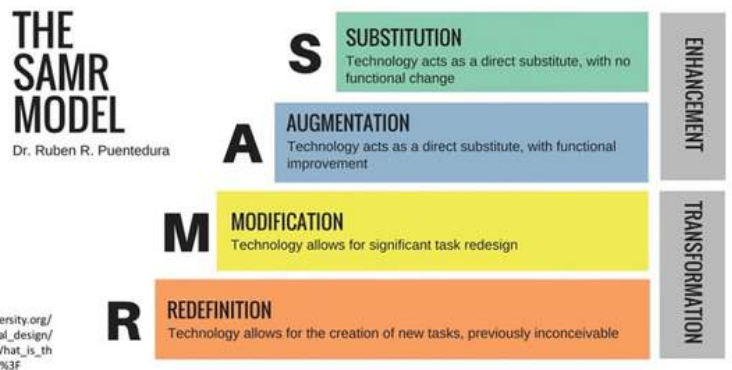
My field experiences this semester have really helped reignite my passion for both music and teaching. Getting a chance to work with students made me remember how it felt to be a music student in high school and the wonder and excitement I got out of those experiences. I'll never forget my first honor band festival, and at my first placement, I met a student who was getting prepared to audition for honor band this year. I've also gotten to see the elementary school music classes and it was refreshing to see the pure excitement when they come in to music class. It has reminded me of why I decided to go into education, and music education especially, which is to give students the opportunity to experience the joy of music that so thrilled me when I was in school.



# Technology in the Classroom

**Technology is becoming more and more important in today's classrooms. From improving adaptability and making content easier to understand, to networking students with their own PDN (personal development network) to encourage learning outside of the classroom, the covid pandemic helped show teachers the doors that technology could open for their students. However, it gave some bad habits too, like using technology only as replacement. The SAMR model shows that technology can and should be used with more intention to transform learning.**

**Test out some of these tools for your future classroom!**



# 22nd Annual Friends of Murray Library Dinner & Public Presentation

On Friday, November 8th, the Friends of Murry Library held their annual dinner and public presentation on the theme of literacy. During the program, President Kim Phipps was honored with an Honorary Lifetime Friends Membership for all her support of Murray Library and Friends over the years. 2023-2024 student library research grant awardee, Michael Azar, was also honored and he spoke with his professor, Dr. John Harms, about their research.

The main event of the night consisted of a moderated panel of librarians, speaking about transitions in literacy and exploring what it means to be literate today, the future of literacy, and the ways that libraries can come together with our communities to develop literacy skills for people of all ages. Our very own Dr. Sarah Fischer was the moderator and the panelists were: Janet Vogel (Director of Murray Library), Ryan McCrory (Executive Director of the Dauphin County Library System), and Sarah George (Elementary Librarian & Library Department Coordinator at Mechanicsburg School District).



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ABOUT ANNUAL FRIENDS OF MURRY DINNER & PUBLIC PROGRAM](#)

# TESOL MINORS

Here's what some of our great students have to say about TESOL!

"I chose TESOL because I enjoy working with English learners. I love their eagerness to learn and share their culture! One day, I will use what I've learned in my TESOL courses to create a multicultural classroom welcoming to all my students."

-Rachel Baksa



"To any incoming students, do not be discouraged by workloads or comments from others, if your heart and passion lies with TESOL, continue on and you will definitely do amazing things."

-Emily Brown-Suarez

"As an EL myself, I have a passion for helping fellow students who went through the same experience as I did. Adding the minor will help me become a better teacher for students that need extra support in the classroom."

-Mireliz Bermudez



"I added a TESOL minor because English learners are the most rapidly growing student population group, and yet, the intelligence, adaptability, and unique perspectives and backgrounds of this population are often unseen and unappreciated."

-Jules Collins





# DR. DAVID HAZEN

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 411 Email: dhazen@messiah.edu

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Ed.D. Curriculum and Instruction, Walden University, St. Paul, MN  
Course work toward Ph.D. History, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI  
M.A. Social Studies Education, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN  
B.A. History, Winona State University, Winona, MN

## CLASSES I TEACH

EDUC 342 Social Studies: Climate, Curriculum, and Instruction for Elementary School  
EDUC 331 Instructional Design and Assessment for Middle and Secondary Grades  
EDUC 305 Middle-Level Methods  
EDUC 203 Educational Psychology

## SERVICE

Assessment of Student Learning Committee  
Teacher Education Committee  
Education Recruitment Committee  
Library Committee

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substitute Teaching  
Motivation and Amotivation

## FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

Romans 12:15-18 NIV Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

This verse always reminds me to be compassionate for others' struggles and seek to do good to all peoples at all times. Living in peace is a struggle that we all meet head-on daily. When evil raises its head as it will, it is our calling to not consider ourselves better than others, to be honest with one another, and as much as it depends upon my efforts, to live at peace with all men.

## FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT

My favorite teaching moments happen in Instructional Design and Assessment. This is a class where students put a lot of themselves into each and every lesson we are developing. I provide some...poignant feedback which is, at times, difficult to take. However, there is a point shortly afterwards where students have the AH HA!! moment where everything just clicks. I love to see that moment!

## WHAT I LOVE MOST ABOUT MESSIAH

I will say that, besides the students, working with my fellow professors in the Education and Teacher Education Departments is such a joy. Having such a dedicated group of people who are genuinely interested in making our students the best they can be makes coming into work each day a blessing. Each of the professors has their unique talents and approaches, giving students a well-rounded experience. Likewise, we support each other in our research and professional practice while also pushing each other to give our very best. My hope and prayer are that we exhibit a dedicated professional learning community for our students to emulate in their future professional practices.

## IF I WASN'T A PROFESSOR I WOULD BE...

A barista. I have a strong affinity for excellent coffee and espresso.

## HIDDEN TALENTS

I love to fish, especially fly fishing. Additionally, I love to sing 1970's country music (David Allen Coe, Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard) and Classic Rock (Thin Lizzy, ZZ Top, Dire Straits) by myself in my car! Ok. It's not a "talent" but I still love to do it. I also love to play board and card games.

# Messiah Alum Completes Doctoral Dissertation on Teachers' Financial Literacy

By: Mila Acosta-Morales

If in a few years you were asked to teach a course, or even just a few lessons, on financial literacy, would you feel adequately qualified? What strategies would you focus on and what advice would you give your students? Would you even feel comfortable in your own level of financial literacy? According to Dr. Alyssa (Reph) Eisenhart, a 2012 Messiah Education Department alum and recent Liberty University PhD graduate in Instructional Design, odds are that you'd feel very under-prepared for this position. Numerous studies have investigated the knowledge base of students when considering financial literacy, but in her doctoral dissertation, Alyssa set out to study something slightly different: the knowledge bases of *teachers* and how we can fill in the gaps that are hindering them from success.



Dr. Alyssa Eisenhart & her husband, Scott (2024)

Alyssa didn't always plan to pursue graduate work; she majored in Elementary and Special Education as a student at Messiah, and she worked as a dedicated elementary school teacher for ten years, only deciding to pursue a PhD during her time teaching. Nonetheless, Alyssa's inquisitive mind has been evident to those around her since her undergraduate days. In fact, one of Alyssa's educational mentors, Emeritus Professor of Literacy Dr. Anita Voelker, recounts how the summer between her Junior and Senior years, Alyssa decided to run her very own small study on literature responses in children when the reading occurred through a book versus through a digital format like a Kindle. Dr. Voelker says, "I realized that in all my years of teaching, no student had ever taken on a research project during the



Alyssa & Dr. Voelker at her Messiah graduation (2012)

summer just because of curiosity.” Alyssa’s passion for research and for literacy stayed with her throughout her teaching career, and as she pursued a part-time master’s degree in Instructional Design, she continued to consider the different angles from which one could approach literacy. When speaking with Dr. Voelker, she recalled a paper Alyssa wrote in her Junior year at Messiah about digital media and literacy development that perfectly summarized the importance of Alyssa’s future research pursuits. Alyssa concluded that paper, writing, “Literacy is not static, it is a dynamic and changing way of thinking that will likely shift multiple times throughout the life of a generation. Educators must stay abreast of the current changes in literacy in order to adequately meet the needs of all of their learners.” And what’s one way the field of literacy is changing: an increasing focus on financial literacy.



Circle time in Dr. Voelker’s Literacy Class (2011)

importance of making it a requirement for all future teachers. Through her dissertation research study, Alyssa interviewed numerous high school and middle school teachers who had, at one point or another, taught a financial literacy course. What she found is that financial literacy doesn’t always fall under the jurisdiction of one subject area and that many times teachers from a variety of disciplines (FCS, math, business, social studies, etc.) are tapped by department heads and administrators to teach the course. When asked, many teachers said they felt highly unqualified to teach these courses as they were struggling to make correct financial decisions in their own lives, or that they’d just been lucky to get where they were. Even those teachers who’d had financial success in their personal lives still struggled because they’d had no formal instruction on how to teach their students what they knew. Alyssa concluded that if we are to continue implementing financial literacy programs in our middle and high schools, then it is imperative we properly prepare our teachers for these future roles.



Alyssa with her family at Members 1st (2022)

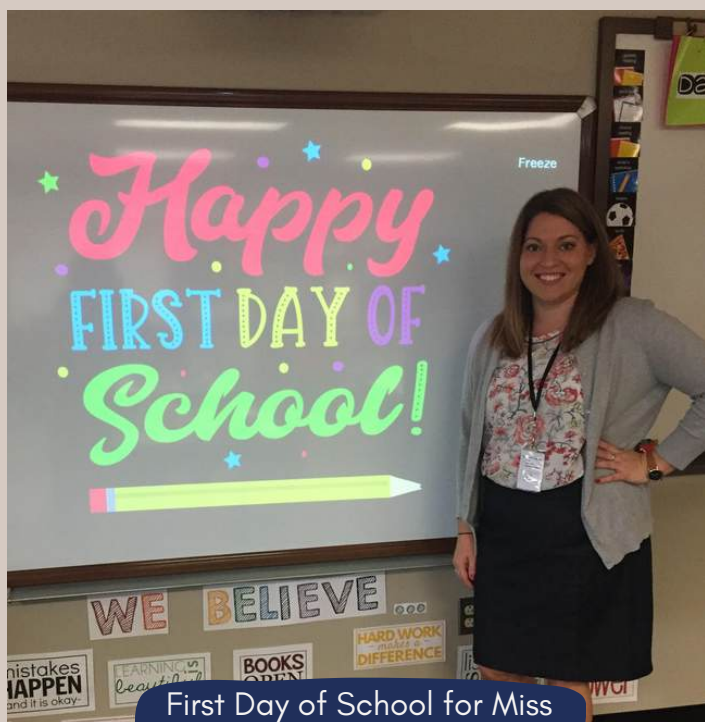
If it was up to Alyssa, all college students would be required to take a financial literacy course as part of their general education curriculum, but for right now, she’s focused on emphasizing the

Today, Alyssa works for a credit union based out of Enola as an instructional designer who creates educational programming for employee training in finance, a job she may never have even considered only a few short years ago when she was teaching 2nd grade. That being said, Alyssa loves what she's doing now, and she says it has been amazing to see how God has worked in her life. Looking to the future, Alyssa hopes to one day be able to design financial literacy curriculums for preservice teachers at the college level, and maybe even teach these courses too. Alyssa's advice for current education majors is to find your niche within education, whether you're majoring in a specific subject area or you're hoping to teach in an elementary school classroom. Alyssa's niches were Math and English education which combined in

a unique way to create her passion for financial literacy. It doesn't matter what you specialize in, but at the end of the day, Alyssa says that "having something you're passionate about is what motivates you and keeps you going in the classroom."

The Messiah Education Department is so proud of all that Alyssa has accomplished in the last decade or so since her graduation, and we can't wait to see where she goes next. Hopefully, Alyssa's story can serve as a reminder to pursue our passions and always stay open to God's plans for our lives.

To read more about Alyssa's research on teachers' financial knowledge and self-efficacy, click [here](#).



First Day of School for Miss Reph's Class (2018)



# GOODBYE DR. HAZEN!



Dr. Hazen has been an essential part of our Education Department for 8 years, particularly impacting our middle level education majors. Although he will be greatly missed, we wish him the best in all of his future endeavors!



*"Dr. Hazen is truly a master of education; he has done a phenomenal job of teaching us how to be the best for our future students. He creates an engaging learning environment in every class I've taken with him. I wish him the best in his new role!"*

*-Emma Groff*

*"Dr. Hazen is a perpetually vivacious professor whose passion is very contagious. He has helped me to feel affirmed many times over in my calling to middle-level education. I'm truly grateful for the chance to have him as my professor."*

*-Anna Lentz*



*Lauren Campbell*



**Vienna, Austria**

# Fall 2024 Student Teaching Abroad



Hi! My name is Lauren Campbell and I am a senior currently pursuing a degree in Special Education. I will be teaching the second half of the fall semester in Vienna, Austria at the International Christian School of Vienna. While at ICSV, I will be teaching learning support at the k-5 level. Teaching abroad has been a dream of mine since entering Messiah University. I believe the Lord has given me the opportunity to see and learn more about His wonderful creations and I am excited to share these experiences with my future students, colleagues, and friends!



# Community Learning About Disability Education

## Faculty Workshop on Executive Functioning

This November, Dr. Burchard co-presented with Dr. Eveler (Assistant Professor of Graduate Education) and Amber Brisbane (Director of NEXT Steps Program for Students with Intellectual Disabilities) at a faculty development workshop about executive functioning in higher education. Through their presentation, they defined executive functioning, and discussed applications of executive functioning in various learning skills. For each type of skill, such as working memory, active listening, or goal-setting, they shared examples of how Messiah faculty across programs can support executive functioning in the classroom, especially when considering the unique challenges of college learners with intellectual disabilities. They also shared free resources available online or in Messiah University's Murray Library for further development. Participants were tasked with identifying the challenges their students may experience in regards to executive functioning and they then brainstormed new ways to support students through these challenges.

## Parent & Family Workshop for Adopted Children with Disabilities

During October, November and December, Dr. Burchard and Dr. Eveler (Assistant Professor of Graduate Education) collaborated with the Bair Foundation Child and Family Ministries, to co-present a series of three workshops for families in the local area. The workshops were specifically designed for an audience of Pennsylvania parents who have recently adopted children with disabilities. Each workshop focused upon different aspects of special education rights and processes, including how to fully participate in the IEP planning process.





# PROFESSOR JULIA DAVIS

PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

Office: Boyer 403

Email: [jdavis@messiah.edu](mailto:jdavis@messiah.edu)

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

M.Ed. Education  
B.S. Elementary Education  
National Board Certified Counselor

## CLASSES I TEACH

EDUC 420: Professional Issues in Education  
EDME 555: Literacy Curriculum and Instruction

## SERVICE

Teaching Sunday school  
Volunteering at my children's school  
Helping with "Running Water for Living Water" well building funds  
Leading Camp Grit with my husband

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Faith Integration in Education  
The Science of Learning  
Classroom Environment

## WHY DID I BECOME A PROFESSOR?

Many years ago, I distinctly remember teaching Professional Issues with Don Murk in Boyer 434. As we discussed meaningful issues, laughed at Dr. Murk's jokes, and reflected upon the heart and soul of teaching, I thought to myself, *this is quite simply the best job in all the world*. How truly blessed I am to teach at Messiah!

## FAVORITE SCRIPTURE VERSE AND WHY

Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." This verse continually reminds me of the good God I serve and how I can love and honor him in all ways.

## FAVORITE TEACHING MOMENT

This happened mid-semester when I was teaching Literacy II. In the busyness of junior year, the students and I took a moment to take a breath and talk about the bigger picture and deeper meaning of our work. Their answers served as a tangible reminder of why we do what we do: a perfect reset when we needed it most.

## HOW DID I BECOME INTERESTED IN MY FIELD?

Many educators can trace their roots to a specific teacher that made a difference. For me, it was Mrs. Jones, my second-grade teacher. She understood me in ways no other teachers had and cared for my needs with kindness and encouragement. Mrs. Jones undoubtedly shaped the trajectory of my career.

## HIDDEN TALENTS AND HOBBIES

- Bike riding with my husband and kids
- Finding children's books at the Bookery and yard sales
- Identifying the exact container size for dinner leftovers

## FAVORITE VACATION MEMORY

Sitting down to grab a turkey leg for my son and blue raspberry slushie for my daughter as our family took in the scents and sounds of Disney's Magic Kingdom in 2021.



# TESOL Minor Alumni Profiles

## JEMI LUI

Graduation Year: 2020

Current Position: Middle school math teacher



### ABOUT

Some of my biggest takeaways from Messiah's program was the emphasis on making students feel welcome, celebrating their strengths, and setting high (but still realistic) expectations for them to rise up to. As much as possible, I try to find other ways to connect with my EMLs (i.e. hobbies, drawing, etc.). One of my current Level 1 EML students loves to draw. I'll often ask or she'll show me art she's working on, and she always chooses the extra drawing prompt at the end of quizzes. Even though we're only a month in, we've built a great rapport and she enjoys coming into the math classroom ready to learn. My students also love to find ways to connect with me as their teacher too. Since I love to travel, a go to topic is always places we've been, food we love, and experiences recommended. When students see that they can bring something to the table, it empowers and encourages them to do the same in other areas.

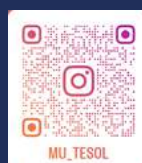
### WHY DID YOU ADD A TESOL MINOR?

- ✓ I grew up overseas where many people did not speak English as their first language
- ✓ Students all come from diverse backgrounds with different culture to be celebrated

### HOW DO YOU USE YOUR TESOL MINOR?

- ✓ Each year, there are English learners in my classroom at various levels
- ✓ Encouraging and celebrating diversity in the classroom
- ✓ Setting high expectations for students to rise to

[To Learn More About the TESOL Minor](#)





# Do you want to be a teacher?

## Then you need to take educational psychology!

Messiah University is offering a dual enrollment educational psychology course next year in both the fall and spring semesters. If you want to be a teacher, you should take it.

If you want to be a teacher, one of the required courses you will need to take is Educational Psychology. A standard introductory or general psychology course may not count toward degree or licensure requirements. Educational Psychology is a required course at the following colleges and universities: **Messiah University**, Penn State, Grove City, IUPA, Wilkes, Pitt, Temple, Kutztown, Gettysburg, Susquehanna, University of Scranton, Bucknell, LVC, Dickinson, Villanova, Geneva, Eastern, Lafayette, Swarthmore, Drexel and many more. Instruction will be delivered online, providing an opportunity for you to learn alongside Messiah undergraduate students. **Get a head start today on your journey toward becoming a teacher!**

- Available during fall and spring semesters
- Earn credits towards your teaching degree
- Learn alongside on-campus students
- Asynchronous delivery with on-campus learning opportunities

### Questions?

Contact: Matt Reitnour

Associate Director of Admissions/Coordinator of Dual Enrollment

Email: mreitnour@messiah.edu | Call: 717-691-6000



### Benefits of being dual enrolled at Messiah University

- Create a more flexible schedule as a college student
- Strengthen your potential to graduate from college in less than 4 years
- Experience college life by taking classes taught by Messiah University professors
- Take college courses that may satisfy both high school and college credit requirements

22\_1560



# Dorothy Gish Award

This award is named in honor of Dr. Dorothy Gish, Academic Dean Emeritus and former Professor of Early Childhood and Family Education at Messiah. The award supports worthy leadership opportunities for full-time, undergraduate women students at Messiah.

For more info, scan  
the QR code below!



## Congratulations to our previous winner Mila Acosta-Morales!



"I received this scholarship money to support a conference presentation next summer. I will be presenting about embracing the intersection of migration and disability using migration stories with Dr. Burchard, Alex Bohm, and Mimi Bermudez at the American Library Association (ALA) Conference in July. I am very grateful for this scholarship!"

- Mila Acosta-Morales

# Don Tate's Author Visit



**Don Tate, award winning children's book author and illustrator visited Messiah on Monday, 11/11.**

**Tate first presented in Dr. Burchard's First-Year Seminar course, Worth Narratives. He shared his own story of childhood events that shaped his priorities for identity development and his love of drawing and painting people and eventually writing. He encouraged the students to develop their talents and to encourage those around them to also develop their talents.**



**Tate then spoke in the evening at a library event open for all ages where he shared more about his writing and illustrating process, read a excerpt from his picture book *Poet*, and demonstrated his illustration style through an interactive activity.**



# “Walk Through History” VR Night - History Club

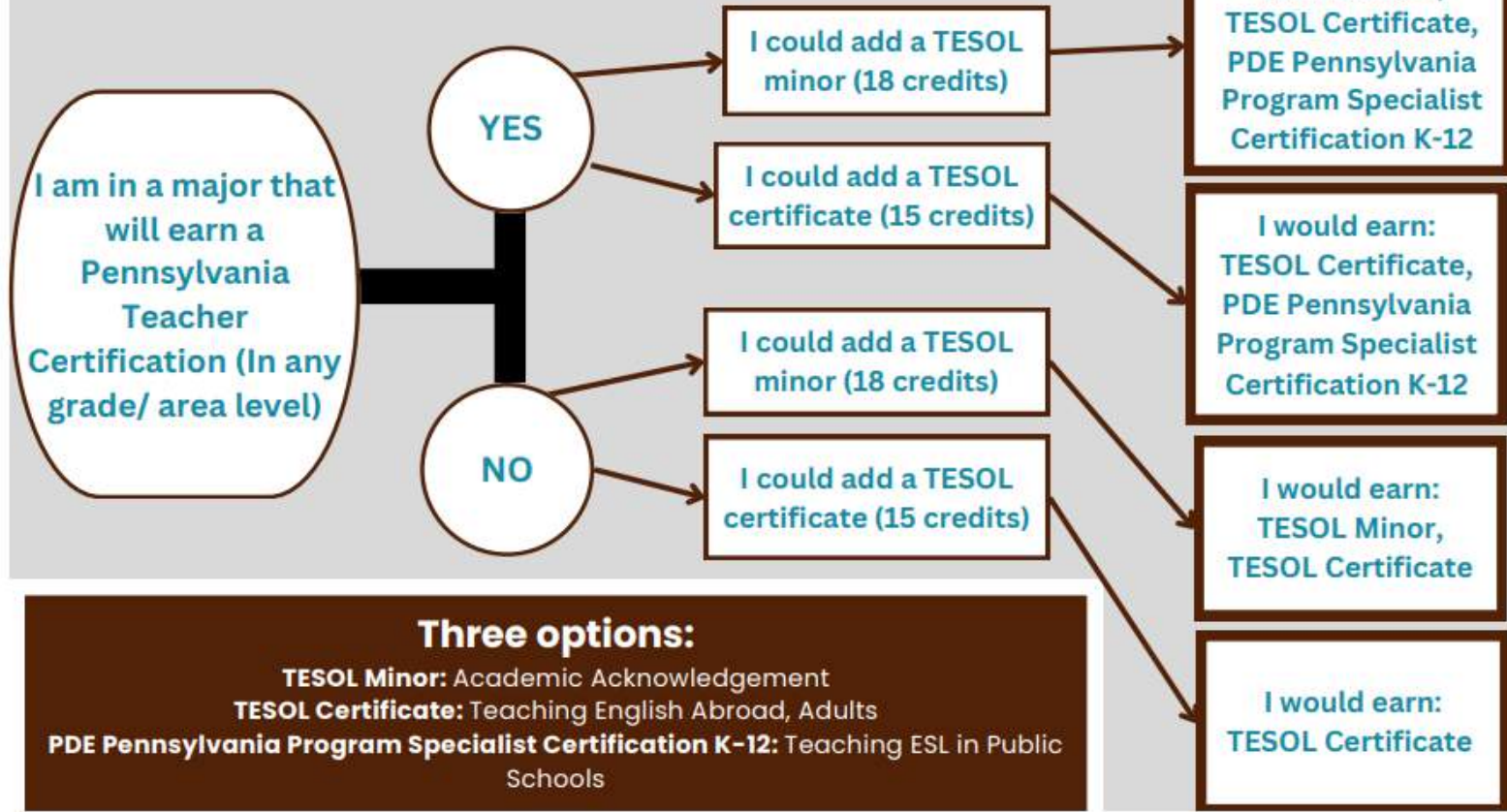


On Wednesday, November 13th, the History Club, which includes many future teachers, was able to make history accessible and fun for all students through the use of the Education Department's VR headsets. History Club President, AJ Memmelaar says, "History is a subject like no other. It isn't just about dead people and dates; every day we are experiencing events that tomorrow will be called history." The History Club's first "Walk Through History" VR Night enabled students to use VR headsets and YouTube to experience events like Pearl Harbor, the Anne Frank House, Ancient Egypt, The American Revolution, and several other events, almost firsthand. This event brought together many history majors, but individuals from other areas of study were welcomed to participate as well. The great thing about events like these is that when students have the opportunity to expand their historical knowledge in fun ways, it doesn't even feel like learning. The History Club would like to thank Dr. Tina Keller for allowing them to use the headsets for this event, and they invite you to explore their next "Walk Through History" night coming soon!



# TESOL DECISIONS

Both the TESOL Minor and TESOL Certificate need to be declared



## Three options:

**TESOL Minor:** Academic Acknowledgement

**TESOL Certificate:** Teaching English Abroad, Adults

**PDE Pennsylvania Program Specialist Certification K-12:** Teaching ESL in Public Schools

## TESOL Minor (18 Credits)

Education Majors (PreK-4, Dual, Middle Level, Secondary)	All Other Majors
<u>TESOL/ESL minor with Pennsylvania ESL Program Specialist Certification K-12</u>	<u>TESOL/ESL minor</u>
Choice of HDFS 383 Topics in Multicultural Families (3) HDFS 386 Family Ethnicity and Human Services (3) SOAN 356 Social Inequality (3)	EDUC 346 Sociocultural Perspectives on Education (3) HDFS 383 Topics in Multicultural Families (3) HDFS 386 Family Ethnicity and Human Services (3) SOAN 356 Social Inequality (3)
EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) (TEP requirement)	Choice of EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) or ENGL 230 Linguistics (3)
EDUC 330/331 Instructional Design (3) (TEP requirement)	EDUC 331 Instructional Design (Prerequisite Waived)
EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)	EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)
EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)	EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)
EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)	EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)
EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)	EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)

## TESOL Certificate (15 Credits)

All Majors
Choice of EDUC 208 Teaching English Language Learners in K-12 Schools (3) or ENGL 230 Linguistics (3)
EDUC 330 or 331 Instructional Design (Prerequisite Waived)
EDUC 309 English Language Learning in TESOL/ESL classrooms (3)
EDUC 311 TESOL/ESL Methods and Assessment (3)
EDUC 401 Seminar in TESOL/ESL (2)
EDUC 402 TESOL/ESL Internship (1)

REACH OUT TO DR. KELLER TO LEARN MORE!  
TKELLER@MESSIAH.EDU

[ADVISING GUIDE](#)

[OVERVIEW PRESENTATION](#)

[MESSIAH UNIVERSITY  
TESOL SOCIALS](#)



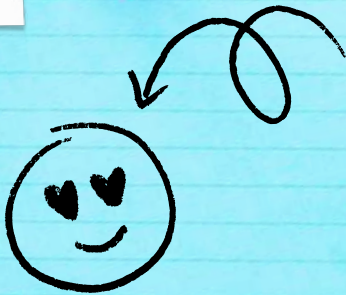


# High School Students EDUCATORS FOR TOMORROW

Program



01



## Dreaming of Teaching?

Are you a high school student thinking of becoming a teacher? This program is for you!

## Learn More

Educators for Tomorrow students participate in a one-year cohort program, with a fall start date, which includes these three different program components: Dual enrollment classes, events at Messiah, and experiences in your home district.

02



**Educators for Tomorrow Program**

[messiah.edu/](https://messiah.edu/)

03



## Join Us!

In addition to gaining a deeper understanding and exposure to teaching as a potential career, students who complete the Educators for Tomorrow program receive a certificate of completion from Messiah University and earn six college credits if they successfully complete the program's dual enrollment coursework.



Dr. Anita Voelker  
Professor Emerita of Education

ANITA VOELKER

# Literacy Research Award

**OPEN TO ALL EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT STUDENTS**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PRESENTING  
AT A CONFERENCE, COMPLETING  
HONORS RESEARCH, OR CONDUCTING  
A SERVICE ORIENTED LITERACY  
PROJECT?

**Funding is Available**

Applications can be  
found here

Or Talk with Dr. Keller

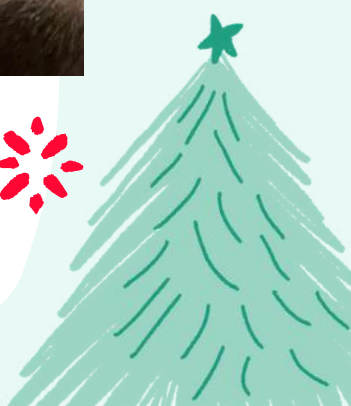




# SACS KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

On 11/29, the Education Department hosted a wonderful event for the children and grandchildren of the faculty and staff within the School of Arts, Culture, & Society. The event was themed around the Christmas classic *The Polar Express*. Thank you to Dean Powery and Sally Keefer for sponsoring the event!





# Scholarships

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE 12:00 NOON ON THE LAST THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

## Ethel Brandt Bigham Endowed Education Award

All PK-4 and Grades 4-8 juniors with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and a desire to teach in an urban or rural setting are encouraged to apply for this approximately \$1200 award.

## Ernest L. Boyer, Sr. Teacher Scholarship

All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and an outstanding record of community service and leadership are invited to apply for this \$3000 award.

## Suzanne Joy Johnson Endowed Scholarship Award

All current Teacher Education Program students (preference given to PK-4 and Grades 4-8 majors) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60 and demonstrated dynamic interpersonal skills are invited to apply for this award (approximately \$1300).

## Terry L. Stoudnour Endowed Education Award

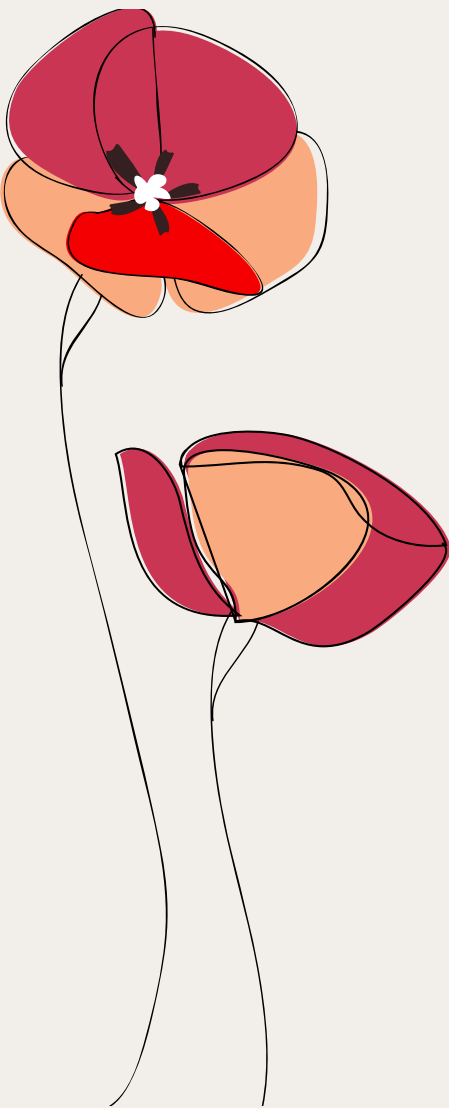
All current Teacher Education Program students (all certification programs) in their junior year with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.60, an exemplary record of leadership, service, ethical standards, and academic achievement are invited to apply for this approximately \$1400 award.

## Murk-Hayes Endowed Education Award

The award is open to candidates of any Messiah University teacher certification program and seeks to recognize a teacher certification candidate who has a demonstrated interest and capacity for serving K-12 educators in urban contexts (approximately \$1000).

[Click Here for the applications](#)

All of these awards are add-on awards. They will be added to, not substituted for, any financial aid the recipient already receives. Award amounts may vary slightly, based on market performance.



# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Talk with Your  
Advisor  
Today!

# HONORS PROJECT

*Due by*

**NOVEMBER 1**

(to start the following spring)

~  
**APRIL 1**

(to start the following fall)

## INTERESTED SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS SUBMIT AN ONLINE APPLICATION

Students complete the online form to initiate interest in completing an education department honors project.

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REVIEWS APPLICANTS

After reviewing all applications, top projects will be selected and faculty advisors will be assigned.

**NOVEMBER 1-15**

(to start the following spring)

~  
**APRIL 1-15**

(to start the following fall)

To learn more, visit our webpage  
[Department Honors projects |  
Messiah, a private Christian  
University in PA](#)





# ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI



## ALUMNI PROFILE

*Heather  
Nase*

CLASS OF 2021

Elementary ESL Teacher

Patricia A. Guth Elementary School  
Perkasie, PA

## ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

Don't doubt yourself if you don't land your dream job right away. This is my fourth year in education and I just got contracted! Every position you take is part of the journey and growing you into a better educator.





# ALUMNI ADVICE

LESSONS FROM MESSIAH ALUMNI



ALUMNI PROFILE

Julianna  
Chen

CLASS OF 2022

Educational Research  
Assistant

Villanova University

## ADVICE FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

*There is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be in.* This quote by Amanda Gorman is the motto I used with my 3rd graders and continues to be what I live by in my day to day. Being an educator is an incredible privilege to walk alongside someone's journey. We have the gift of speaking life into someone's life, being the light. You never know the impact that you can make on your students or co-workers. Maya Angelou said it best: *I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.*

Currently I am a second-year graduate student in the M.A. Education (Teacher Leadership Concentration) program. As a research assistant, I work with several professors on topics in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Student Teacher Relationships and Children's Literature. I also collaborate on journal articles, guest lecture in undergraduate courses, and present research at various academic conferences.



# DECEMBER

**December 16-19** - Finals Week

**December 20-January 13** - Winter Break

- Show God's Love
- Sleep
- Play with your pets
- Love your family
- Read a good book

**December 23**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to... Dr. Obed Mfum-Mensah

**December 25** - Merry Christmas!

Would you like to contribute to our newsletter? Do you have an idea for an article? We would love to hear from current students or Messiah Alumni!

Email ideas to [tkeller@messiah.edu](mailto:tkeller@messiah.edu)



## FOLLOW US



Scan the Code to Read Past Issues of the Newsletter:

