

TESSLA M. DONOVAN

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EDUCATION

University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education

Master of Arts, Curriculum and Instruction

Concentration: English Education

GPA: 4.038

West Hartford, Conn.

May 2016-May 2017

University of Connecticut, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts, English

GPA: 3.755 | Dean's List | Magna Cum Laude

West Hartford, Conn.

Aug. 2013-May 2015

Asnuntuck Community College

Associate of Arts, Liberal Arts

GPA: 3.930 | Phi Theta Kappa | Highest Honors

Enfield, Conn

Aug. 2012-May 2013

CERTIFICATION

CT Teacher Certificate, English 7-12, Endorsement 015

EXPERIENCE

Ellington High School

English Teacher and Curriculum Assistant

Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12

Ellington, Conn.

Aug. 2018-present

- Motivate students at a wide range of abilities in a heterogeneous classroom to meet and exceed standard expectations in English/language arts skills
- Integrate a variety of literacy strategies to provide students with transferable reading, writing, and life skills
- Create an extensive standards-based volume of learning activities and formative assessments that feature flexible groupings of students and creative, relevant ways to measure learning
- Communicate extensively with parents, guardians, and students via a parent portal, phone calls, and email, to build school-to-home relationships
- Reimagine my teaching strategies when transitioning from in-person learning to distance learning in order to assist in students' understanding and to facilitate educational growth during the global health pandemic
- Lead the English department by navigating administrative directions, support colleagues, assist in NEASC reaccreditation, and follow departmental curriculum

Miss Porter's School

Director of Global Language and Leadership Institute

Farmington, Conn.

July 2017-July 2020

- Developed and implemented a robust three-week language arts and leadership curriculum for international middle school English learners
- Assisted in students' development of cultural and communicational skills through leadership workshops, experiential field trips, and dynamic academic classes
- Worked closely with a co-director, assistant director, and counselors to ensure students met the rigorous expectations found in American schools

- Communicated with students regarding their progress; provided frequent feedback, especially related to speaking and writing skills

East Windsor Middle School

Language Arts Teacher

Grade 8

Broad Brook, Conn.

Aug. 2017-Jun. 2018

- Instructed students with a wide range of abilities on language arts content and Common Core State Standards through the workshop model of instruction
- Extensively planned curriculum, including learning activities and formative and summative assessments
- Contributed to a year-long committee to implement mastery-based learning and standards-based grading into the district, including developing a standards-based report card

SKILLS

- Curriculum design: transitioning units traditionally centered around classical literary works to ones that are structured around essential questions and pressing problems with inclusive and diverse texts to engage students
- Advanced knowledge of and experience with Google G Suite (Google Classroom, Docs, Drive, Sheets, Forms, Slides, and Sites), Microsoft Office software (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, and OneDrive), SMART Learning Suite, including the utilization of SMART Boards in the classroom, and Blackboard Learn software

EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS

- Implementing mastery-based learning (MBL) as an assessment practice to provide students with more accurate feedback regarding their progress in a course
- Fostering students' success by adequately preparing students through high school and for college and the workforce

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION and CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Member, 2016-present**

Proposals Submitted and Accepted to NCTE Conferences:

- "The Confluence of Conference: Using Conversations on Grading to Foster Student Agency and Navigate the Agitated Waters of Assessment Practices." Annual Convention: Denver, Colorado, Nov. 2020
- "The Confluence of Student Memoir and Academic Writing: Arousing the Songs of Our Students" Annual Convention: Denver, Colorado, Nov. 2020
- "Digital Voice that Transcends the Confines of the Classroom: Using Podcasts as Mentor Texts to Support the Confluence of Students, Their Schools & Their Communities" Annual Convention: Denver, Colorado, Nov. 2020
- "Welcome to the Academy: Using Student Memoirs as Case Studies in Academic Writing" Annual Convention: Baltimore, Maryland, Nov. 2019
- "Suspicious Minds: Fostering Student Agency Through Assessment Conferences" Annual Convention: Baltimore, Maryland, Nov. 2019
- "Voices of English Learners: Supporting Multilingual Students with Story Slams, Stations, and Technology" Annual Convention: Houston, Texas, Nov. 2018
- "Standards-Based Grading: Grading Reform that Supports the Mission to Increase Student Agency in the Classroom and Beyond" National Conference: St. Louis, Missouri, Nov. 2017