

SPOTLIGHT

What class would you teach if you were in teacher cadet?



"I would probably like to teach Latin. It's just a class that I like, so it would be my choice to teach," **Raymond Owens**, 11, said.



"I would definitely go for English because I really enjoy writing and being able to use my creativity," **Olivia Spuler**, 9, said.



"I'd want to teach Computer Science because I think it's a really neat thing and it's fun to mess around with computers," **Jonathan Kahl**, 10, said.

BONDING GENERATIONS: (below) While in his third grade classroom, **Nick Ackard**, 12, leads an engaging math station to help the students learn their multiplication facts. "My favorite part is being able to form relationships and being able to have such a special bond with the students," Ackard said.

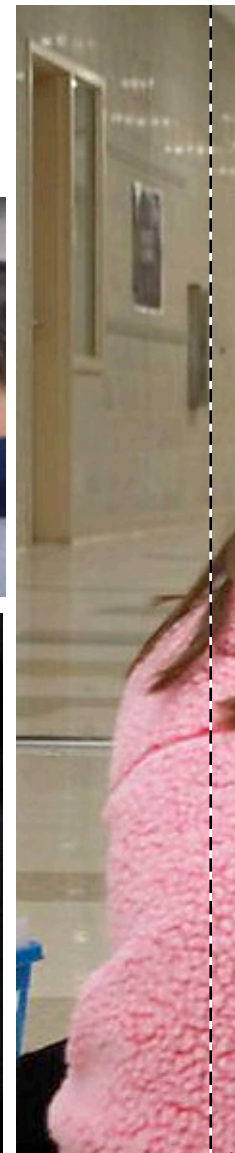
BIG PICTURE: (bottom) **Sydney Laing**, 12, a Teacher Cadet at Jennie Moore Elementary School, helps students make oragami reindeer for their Japan-themed Christmas tree. "I never realized how many details were put into everything the teacher does. They truly work extremely hard every day and help the future generation learn and grow as individuals," Laing said.



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TRIM LINE

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TRIM LINE

By Claire Gaddy Paterson bonds with students despite a 10-year age gap

TEACH THE TOP

As she stood at the head of the classroom, **Caroline Paterson**, 12, fought the shaking in her hands. Although the students were 15 years old, close to Paterson's age, she was not going to let any awkwardness discourage her. Throughout the lesson, her smile never wavered.

"I'm a Teacher Cadet," Paterson said. "Basically, it's a class that teaches us to be, well, teachers. Every day we go into the classroom and learn about different types of teaching and different learning styles."

In the program there are 14 cadets total, who all aspire to have a career in education.

"For a long time, I didn't know what I wanted to do for my career," Paterson said. "Then I took Wildlife Biology. I discovered that was

my thing. I loved it. After that class, I knew I wanted to teach high school science."

That one science class re-routed how Paterson saw her future. As a result, she signed up for Teacher Cadet. However, Paterson discerned that to teach high school students, she would have to overcome some obstacles first.

"I am the only person that does high school because the group that Teacher Cadet is under typically doesn't let people do high school," Patterson said. "It's awkward because it is a group of your own peers, so they kinda have to do it on a case by case basis."

The instructor for Teacher Cadet, **Angela Byrd**, has led Paterson every step of the course.

"[Paterson] knew from the very beginning that she wanted to work with older kids. She felt that she could make the most impact with them, specifically with teenagers," Byrd said.

In Byrd's 20 years of instructing Teacher Cadet, she only had one other student teach high schoolers. Paterson worked with freshmen in **Zachary Neal's** Biology class.

"Before giving [Paterson] the go-ahead, we looked at number

one: maturity. Was [Paterson] professional enough and mature enough to handle presenting, teaching, and assessing kids who were just a year or two younger than her?" Byrd said.

Byrd concluded that Patterson fit the mold, and she was cleared to practice teaching high-schoolers. However, the task has proven a challenge.

Nick Ackard, 12, a fellow Teacher Cadet, wants to teach third grade. "Every age group is different," Ackard said. "Not only do you have to form different relationships with the kids, but moral development [varies] and there are different stages."

Paterson's passion allows her to push through the embarrassing tension, especially because she knows that the science she is teaching is relevant.

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"I'm all about going outside and preserving what we have," Paterson said. "One of the reasons I like science is because you are able to teach people about the world around them and about the impact that they have on their environment and the animals, too."

Ackard also recognizes the influence that teachers have.

"It is important to teach because it is that forming of relationships that is really important and help kids get where they want to be in life," Ackard said. "For elementary age, the kids need to get to middle school or just learn the basic skills in life. For high school, you need to get kids to college."

Similar to the Wildlife Biology class that started her passion for teaching, Paterson hopes to teach high school students environmental science.

"It is so important to learn about science," Patterson said. "For example, with animals that are endangered, we have to do our part to plant more trees or spread the knowledge, because the more knowledge you have about the animals around you and the place around you, the more you can have a voice on that."