



Kelly Roush – Anaheim Ducks

Kelly teaches 4th grade Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies at Westmont Elementary School and has been a teacher for 26 years. She actively incorporates hockey into her classroom culture, using Street Hockey and S.C.O.R.E. programs to engage students, many of whom leave her classroom as fans of the sport. In the past year, Kelly secured a grant for her 4th grade class to take part in a field trip. Outside of the classroom, Kelly created a full day experiential and immersive learning event that engages students across multiple grade levels.

Emily Vandeventer – Boston Bruins

Emily teaches 4th grade Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, Phonics, and Social-Emotional Learning (“SEL”) at Webster Elementary School and has been a teacher for 13 years. Emily enjoys designing hands-on projects that allow students to apply academic concepts to events and moments within their classroom community. She empowers students to explore early engineering and incorporates hockey statistics to make lessons more engaging and meaningful. Outside of the classroom, Emily is a professional figure skating coach and hockey skills coach who works with student-athletes, inspiring them to see the value of perseverance, teamwork, and athletic discipline. She also is committed to fundraising for classroom needs, staying involved with the school food pantry, and translating materials to support families who are not native English speakers.

Robert Haley – Buffalo Sabres

Robert teaches 12th grade Social Studies, Government, Civics, and Economics at Cleveland Hill High School and has been a teacher for 25 years. Robert dedicates class time to career pathways, focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) opportunities. Robert has helped students find nontraditional paths to graduation by focusing on how to be more active citizens in their community by voting, writing political letters, and fundraising for those in need. Robert has also been an advocate for a personal finance graduation requirement in New York high schools.

Connor Einhorn – Calgary Flames

Connor teaches 9th – 11th grade Hockey, Science, Psychology, and Chemistry at École H. J. Cody High School and has been a teacher for six years. He recently launched an innovative Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) program that uses hockey to drive applied learning across science, leadership, and business. Through this program, Connor created hands-on learning experiences that build students’ critical thinking, data analysis, and real-world problem-solving skills. Connor also incorporates nutrition and wellness to support healthy habits and athletic development. His approach channels students’ passion for hockey into meaningful academic engagement and growth while engaging with local businesses and partnerships to develop a sustainable model that builds students’ critical thinking, data analysis, and real-world problem-solving skills.

James Ewing – Carolina Hurricanes

James teaches Kindergarten - 5th grade as a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) Specialist at Walnut Creek Elementary School and has been a teacher for 18 years. James has worked hockey into a multi-disciplinary curriculum, using hockey as a real-world example for students to study history, reading, motion, science, and design. Students can explore STEM concepts through active learning, storytelling, hands-on projects, and creative problem-solving. Outside of the classroom, James enjoys being an active member of nonprofits and serving on educational advisory boards to help shape learning experiences and facilitation tactics.

Chris Hayes – Chicago Blackhawks

Chris teaches 1st grade as a Social Worker at O’Donnell Elementary School and has been a teacher for seven years. Chris uses hockey as a bridge to teach teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving and to explain to students how athletes communicate, support one another, and stay focused under pressure. He shares real game scenarios, hockey equipment for hands-on demonstrations, and often connects the sport to life lessons, to turn students’ interests into powerful learning tools. His approach not only draws students in but also builds confidence, curiosity, and a sense of belonging.

Lauren Heger – Colorado Avalanche

Lauren teaches 6th grade Science and Math at Thunder Ridge Middle School and has been a teacher for 15 years. Lauren brings Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts to life through her energy, creativity, and passion for both math and science. Lauren enjoys connecting concepts to real-world applications and student interests. She incorporates her love for hockey as part of her classroom culture, while serving as the science coordinator, providing guidance, resources, and encouragement to her colleagues to strengthen science instruction across grade levels. Outside of the classroom, Lauren enjoys staying involved in extracurricular school events such as the fall play.

Tia Stevens – Dallas Stars

Tia is the Director of Innovation and Science at St. Philip's School and Community Center and has been a teacher for 15 years. Tia operates a space focused on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) where students explore the engineering design process, investigate community needs, and develop business plans that culminate in a campuswide entrepreneurial event. Her project-based approach empowers students to become creative problem-solvers who connect STEM concepts to real-world challenges. Tia encourages students to think critically and apply their knowledge creatively through hands-on exploration and discussions connected to the sport of hockey, including scientific concepts such as freezing temperatures. Tia takes pride in fostering an environment where students feel empowered, supported, and inspired to make a difference. Outside of the classroom, Tia has worked with her students to organize a local food pantry, strengthening community connections, and reinforcing the importance of service learning.

Courtney Hughes – Detroit Red Wings

Courtney teaches 9th – 12th grade Math and Art at Clarkston High School and has been a teacher for six years. She helps students discover the connection between logic and creativity by reframing lessons through the lens of artistic thinking. Courtney leads by a “team-first” philosophy, fostering an atmosphere rooted in collaboration, compassion, and shared purpose. She ensures every student feels valued and motivated to contribute their unique strengths. -Calculus through the lens of artistic thinking. Guided by her “team-first” philosophy, Courtney fosters a locker-room atmosphere rooted in collaboration, compassion, and shared purpose, ensuring every student feels valued.

Rosa McCormack – Edmonton Oilers

Rosa teaches 4th grade Language Arts, Math, Science, French as a Second Language (FSL), Religion and Art at St. Pius X School and has been a teacher for 23 years. She guides students through hockey themed projects that connect Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) and real-world concepts. She recently prepared her class for a division wide science showcase creating real-world connections for her students. Rosa creatively integrates hockey as a learning tool having students read and write player biographies, analyze statistics in math, explore forces and motion through skating and puck movement in science, and discuss teamwork, perseverance, and leadership through examples of sportsmanship and role models. Outside of the classroom, Rosa leads service initiatives that promote citizenship, inclusion, and compassion, supporting local organizations and helping students understand the impact they can make.

Jaina Berkley – Florida Panthers

Jaina teaches 3rd grade Science, Social Studies, and Writing at Comstock Elementary School and has been a teacher for one year. She brings learning to life through hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) lessons that spark curiosity and help students understand real-world scientific concepts. Jaina is known for her kindness and rapport with students, as she creates an environment where every child feels encouraged and valued. Jaina’s enthusiasm for hockey has inspired many students to begin watching the sport at home and even make their own handmade signs to take to games. Outside the classroom, Jaina contributes to the school community by supporting special events, participating in family nights, and helping students build communication skills.

Vanessa Cordoba – Los Angeles Kings

Vanessa teaches 12th grade Humanities and Language Arts at Odyssey STEM Academy and has been a teacher for 10 years. She incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) into her classroom by guiding students through inquiry, analytical reasoning, and problem-solving that help them connect literature to real-world issues. Vanessa is known for creating an environment where learners feel comfortable sharing ideas and contributing meaningfully to their school community. Vanessa incorporates hockey themed readings and prompts making learning relatable, while highlighting themes such as perseverance, teamwork, and strategy. Outside the classroom, Vanessa supports a positive school culture by fostering student voice, collaboration, and confidence.

Amy Kortuem – Minnesota Wild

Amy teaches 4th grade at Horace Mann School and has been a teacher for 38 years. She builds a positive Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) environment by fostering curiosity, questioning, and hands-on learning that help students explore the subjects in meaningful ways. Amy also supports the school’s robotics program, guiding students as they develop skills in engineering, coding, and teamwork through collaborative challenges. She integrates hockey into her classroom through a Minnesota Wild’s Wild Buddies program, which introduces students to the sport while highlighting themes of perseverance, goalsetting, and positive role modeling. Outside of the classroom, Amy strengthens the school community by supporting family engagement events, mentoring colleagues, and offering a caring presence for students who seek encouragement or support.

Stéphanie Bergeron – Montréal Canadiens

Stéphanie teaches 1st and 2nd grade Life Skills at École Amikobi and has been a teacher for 12 years. She introduces Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts through simple, hands-on activities that encourage young learners to ask questions, explore materials, and build early problem-solving skills. Stéphanie helps her students develop curiosity and confidence in the learning process by guiding them to make observations, test ideas, and reflect on their thinking. Stéphanie uses hockey as a relatable tool for teaching social skills, helping students understand teamwork, adaptability, and respect through examples connected to the sport. Outside of the classroom, Stéphanie supports student growth by promoting healthy habits, building confidence, and creating inclusive opportunities for children to participate in physical activity.

Caroline Armstrong – Nashville Predators

Caroline teaches 2nd grade English at Gower Elementary School and has been a teacher for four years. She incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts into her lessons by using hands-on activities, inquiry, and real-world problem solving to help multilingual learners build both academic language and content understanding. Caroline creates a warm, inclusive classroom where students feel valued, supported, and confident sharing their ideas. Caroline thoughtfully designs lessons that elevate student voice and make learning accessible for all, encouraging curiosity and collaboration. She also brings her passion for hockey into her work by using the energy and teamwork of the sport to motivate learners, strengthen classroom community, and celebrate student progress. Outside of the classroom, Caroline is a trusted collaborator who supports colleagues, engages families, and helps strengthen communication across cultures.

Bonnie Taylor – New Jersey Devils

Bonnie teaches 9th – 12th grade Personal Finance, Business Skills, Marketing, Web Design, Computer Skills, and Accounting at New Milford High School and has been a teacher for 21 years. She introduces Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts through financial literacy, digital tools, and real-world business applications that build problem-solving and analytical skills. She has worked with the New Jersey Devils to bring high-quality financial literacy learning to her students and to welcome guest speakers who share real-world financial insights. Outside of the classroom, Bonnie serves as the advisor to the student-run business club, where she supports students in developing leadership, entrepreneurship, and career-ready skills.

Jennifer De Carlo – New York Islanders

Jennifer teaches 3rd and 5th grade at Nokomis Elementary School and has been a teacher for 26 years. Jennifer is deeply supportive of her students and goes above and beyond to ensure each child succeeds, often spending extra time before or after school to help them focus on challenging subjects. Jennifer also incorporates hockey-themed reading and writing prompts to make lessons engaging and relatable for students. A former New York Islanders Teacher of the Year, Jennifer also gives back to the Sachem community by volunteering with an animal rescue while advocating for pet adoption, and participating in local events such as award dinners, fun runs, and 5Ks.

Sasha Roopchand – New York Rangers

Sasha teaches 6th–8th grade Health Education and Physical Education at The Brooklyn Green School and has been a teacher for 9 years. She incorporates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts into physical education by helping students explore angles, force, movement, and strategy through activities such as floor hockey. Sasha uses the game to build teamwork, communication, and perseverance while designing inclusive lessons that support learners of all ability levels. Her instruction connects skills and gameplay to broader learning through reflection, goalsetting, and peer feedback. Outside of the classroom, Sasha serves as Athletic Director, where she supports student engagement and emphasizes character development alongside athletic growth.

Mélissa Bastien – Ottawa Senators

Mélissa teaches secondary Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) at École Rivière-Des-Quinze and has been a teacher for 22 years. She creates engaging, student-centered learning experiences by integrating exploration, experimentation, and reflection into her instruction, helping students build curiosity and confidence in scientific thinking. Outside of the classroom, Mélissa has secured resources that allow students to learn to skate and play hockey during lunchtime, giving them opportunities to practice teamwork, perseverance, and respect while trying a new sport in a supportive environment. Mélissa has also arranged school hockey outings that give students the chance to experience the excitement of a live game together.

Anita Quinn – Philadelphia Flyers

Anita teaches 6th – 8th grade STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) at Charles Boehm Middle School and has been a teacher for 25 years. Anita brings Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts to life through projects that help students explore engineering, environmental science, and technology in practical, engaging ways. She enjoys designing hands-on tasks that build critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Outside of the classroom, Anita is an advisor in student service groups and facilitates field trips and unique opportunities aimed at strengthening environment stewardship, leadership, and community involvement.

Matthew Malarik – Pittsburgh Penguins

Matthew teaches 8th – 12th grade physics at Purchase Line Jr/Sr High School and has been a teacher for 25 years. Matthew teaches students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts through hands-on engineering challenges that require students to apply physics principles in meaningful ways. Matthew engages learners in projects that explore motion, force, structure, and energy through real-world problem-solving. He integrates hockey into instruction by using scenarios from the sport to illustrate concepts such as vectors, angles, and momentum. Outside of the classroom, Matthew enjoys serving as a mentor to students as he founded a fishing club that fosters an environment where students develop enjoyment for getting outside, building a lifelong hobby, forming positive relationships.

Denise Rast – San Jose Sharks

Denise teaches 7th grade English and Language Arts (“ELA”) at Elizabeth Ustach Middle School and has been a teacher for 7 years. Denise creatively teaches Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) by designing hands-on, real-world projects that strengthen critical thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving. She brings current events and sports into lessons by having students track NHL standings and research an Olympic athlete to build narrative essay skills. Outside of the classroom, Denise advises the Renaissance leadership team and yearbook staff, fostering student leadership and keeping learning engaging and meaningful across every unit.

Josie Haley – Seattle Kraken

Josie teaches Kindergarten - 5th grade physical education at Queen Anne Elementary School and has been a teacher for 40 years. Josie brings Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) learning to life through project-based units where students explore the science behind sports. Josie teaches a hockey unit that introduces foundational skills such as stick handling, passing, and spatial awareness through progressive lessons and cooperative gameplay. Her approach emphasizes teamwork, communication, and confidence, allowing students of all levels to enjoy physical activity and develop essential lifelong skills. Outside of the classroom, Josie founded a marathon club to promote health and self-goal setting and arranged a school-wide field trip as an experiential learning opportunity to the Kraken Ice Plex to view practice.

Kathleen Petruska – St. Louis Blues

Kathleen teaches 6th – 8th grade Math at Parkway South Middle School and has been a teacher for 15 years. Kathleen teaches Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) concepts by grounding lessons in real-world applications and designing tasks that require collaboration and mathematical reasoning. Kathleen helps students understand how math connects to science, engineering, and everyday problem-solving. She also uses hockey statistics and scenarios to strengthen data analysis, proportional reasoning, and problem-solving skills. Outside of the classroom, Kathleen supports her department and colleagues by sharing and inspiring strategies which promote equitable, student-centered math instruction.

Scott Tassone – Tampa Bay Lightning

Scott teaches 1st – 5th grade Physical Education (“PE”) at Oakstead Elementary School and has been a teacher for 10 years. He teaches Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) topics by helping students explore force, motion, balance, and trajectory through movement-based activities and skill challenges. His lessons encourage problem-solving and spatial reasoning through hands-on exploration. Scott also teaches ball hockey fundamentals through structured drills, partner work, and skill progressions that build dribbling, passing, and shooting abilities. Outside of the classroom, Scott hosts an annual ball hockey tournament in honor of a former student who passed away from cancer and creates innovative lessons and videos to help students and their families stay active and connected beyond the school day.

Mike Rea – Toronto Maple Leafs

Mike teaches 8th grade Math at St. Marie of the Incarnation and has been a teacher for 12 years. Mike brings Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) to life by connecting math concepts to real-world hockey examples, using player statistics, shot angles, and probability scenarios to spark curiosity and deepen understanding. He incorporates Toronto Maple Leafs data into lessons on parabolas, averages, velocity, and predictive modeling, and designs group projects that simulate NHL analytics teams, allowing students to calculate efficiency ratings and optimize lineups. Outside of the classroom, Mike volunteered as a coach with local hockey clinics, organized after-school hockey workshops, and planned community game-watch event during the 2025 playoffs, uniting families and raising funds for school equipment.

Stephen Pena – Utah Mammoth

Stephen teaches 9th – 12th grade Math at Round Valley High School and has been a teacher for 22 years. Stephen encourages students to tackle challenging math concepts with confidence, often using hockey to make learning more engaging. He teaches probability through playoff brackets and explores exponential growth using 30 years of salary data across the sport. Stephen offers after-school tutoring and recently introduced AP Pre-Calculus, guiding students through advanced coursework with strong results and dedicating his time to building students’ skills and confidence. Outside of the classroom, Stephen serves as student council advisor, promoting school spirit, and participates in homecoming activities and assemblies.

Tine Parker – Vancouver Canucks

Tine teaches Kindergarten – 12th grade Health and Wellness at North Vancouver School District 44 and has been a teacher for 20 years. Tine has made a significant impact by promoting physical literacy across her school district and creating safe, inclusive environments for students to be active. She works closely with the Jr. Canucks Floor Hockey Program to introduce skill-building lessons and accessible equipment that allow students of all experience levels to enjoy the game. Through her leadership and community outreach, Tine helps students build confidence, teamwork skills, and appreciation for physical activity. Outside of the classroom, Tine collaborates with educators, families, and community programs to support student well-being and promote lifelong healthy habits.

Suzanne Gudjonis – Vegas Golden Knights

Suzanne teaches 6th – 8th grade Robotics at Walter Johnson Junior High School and has been a teacher for 26 years. Suzanne engages students in hands-on engineering and problem-solving through a design cycle, guiding them to understand mechanics, torque, gear ratios, and structural stability while iteratively testing and refining their robotic designs. She connects academic concepts to real hockey examples, increasing engagement and helping students develop practical skills in math, science, and career readiness. Outside of the classroom, Suzanne supports competitions, collaborates with colleagues, and mentors students through extended robotics activities and community partnerships.

Dr. Kwabena Asomani – Washington Capitals

Kwabena teaches 8th grade Technology Concepts and Computer Science Discoveries at Thurgood Marshall Middle School and has been a teacher for 27 years. Kwabena immerses students in real-world Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) problem-solving by modeling classroom challenges after the operations of an NHL organization, from ice maintenance and player performance to fan engagement and business operations. His innovative approach broadens students’ awareness, strengthens engagement, and fosters an inclusive learning environment where all learners can envision themselves in future STEM careers. Outside of the classroom, Kwabena advises student leadership groups, supports academic clubs, and mentors learners through activities that build responsibility, confidence, and teamwork.

Mary-Lynn Hrom – Winnipeg Jets

Mary-Lynn teaches 4th and 5th grade Math, Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts at Brooklands Elementary School and has been a teacher for 24 years. Mary-Lynn integrates Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (“STEM”) in her classroom through hands-on activities including an active science fair program, and enrichment opportunities that help students build a strong foundation. She is known for her unwavering commitment to students facing significant life challenges, and even during her own battle with cancer, she continued to visit her school to check on her students. Outside of the classroom, Mary-Lynn attends weekly on-ice sessions and after-school programming for the Winnipeg Jets Hockey Academy. She also helps lead the school’s Community Christmas Dinner, ensuring every child receives a holiday meal and gift, and regularly attends her students’ hockey games to cheer them on.