

Project Challenge Teachers

Sherry Earle, PhD teaches Project Challenge at Hawley School. She received her BS from Springfield College, her Master's Degree in Special Education from the College of New Rochelle, and her PhD in Gifted Education from Kent State University in Ohio. Before joining the Newtown Public Schools, Dr. Earle taught in urban and suburban school systems in mainstream classes, gifted education, and special education classes. She lives in Danbury with her husband.

Kate Magness teaches Project Challenge at Sandy Hook School. She grew up in Newtown, CT and received her Bachelor's from Western Connecticut State University in Anthropology/Sociology and Masters in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University. She began her teaching career in Redding, CT at Redding Elementary School, and then taught in Woodbury, CT before returning to Newtown to teach 4th grade at Sandy Hook Elementary. She lives in Trumbull with her husband and two children.

Cheryl McCaffrey is the Project Challenge Teacher at Reed Intermediate School. She received her BS from SUNY Oswego and her Master's Degree from University of Maryland. Prior to joining the Project Challenge Team in Newtown, she taught gifted education in Darien for ten years. Additionally, she taught middle school math, fifth grade and college algebra in Maryland. Ms. McCaffrey is the 2019-2020 winner of the Weller Award for Outstanding Teaching. She lives in Redding with her husband and four children.

Eric Myhill teaches Project Challenge at Head O'Meadow School and Middle Gate School. He received his bachelor's degree from Western Connecticut State University and his master's degree from Wesleyan University. He began his teaching career in 1988 at Sandy Hook School; he then taught mathematics at Newtown Middle School; next, he taught sixth grade mathematics and science at Reed Intermediate School; after that, he taught 5th grade reading, language arts, and social studies at Reed Intermediate School. In 1999, Mr. Myhill received the Weller Outstanding Teaching Award for designing and implementing a reading and writing program. Mr. Myhill lives in New Milford, CT, with his wife and their wheaten terrier Ella. The Myhills have two dear daughters, both of whom are away at college and enjoy face-timing their dog.

Francis Saraceni teaches Project Challenge at Newtown Middle School. He grew up in Newtown, CT and received his Bachelor's in History and 7-12 Education Certification from Eastern Connecticut State University. This is his third year at NMS. Currently, he also runs the Academic Resource Center, the HOPS Program, and oversees students who are working remotely. Last year, he taught a class centered around consumerism and life skills, covering topics such as taxes, insurance, product design, and college preparation. He began his teaching career in Hebron, CT, where he student taught as part of the Inquiry Academy. These classes were designed to provide students with a more individualized education that allows them the opportunity to focus and explore their areas of interest using an integrated multidisciplinary approach that emphasizes communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation through inquiry, research, and problem-based learning. This philosophy is the cornerstone of his instructional practice.