

# Steph Le: Appreciate the Differences

Steph Le, special education teacher at Penndale, believes the quote, “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness,” perfectly encapsulates her mindset at Penndale. Steph says that, “I always knew I was meant to be a teacher, however, I did not know I was going to be a special education teacher until my sophomore year of college after taking an introduction to exceptional individuals class. The experiences I had in this class showed me a new light in the educational world and I changed my major. There are many challenges that teachers have to overcome. While some people may curse in the darkness, I try to teach my students and colleagues to look for the candlelight and appreciate the differences of each situation and person. I apply my own classroom rules to these moments: 1) Be respectful and kind, 2) Be a critical thinker and ask questions, and 3) Be patient and use self control. I respect that not everyone has a background in special education. I see it as my job to show others to be kind and ask questions instead of judging or making complaints. I practice patience when others cannot see the positive impact inclusion has made in our schools because I know that it has.”



Steph’s co-teacher, Lindsay Mower shares, “Steph consistently brings a positive attitude and energy to everything that she does at North Penn. Time and again, she has shown her students and colleagues that she truly believes that all students are capable of being successful. I have been inspired by Steph’s creativity and willingness to try new strategies in her classroom. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to collaborate with her as a co-teacher. Steph’s determination to reach all of her students’ needs is something that we should all strive to achieve! I am amazed daily by her passion for her work and the ‘light’ she is in the North Penn community.”

Steph began working in the North Penn School District in 2009 as a long term substitute math intervention specialist and was hired as a special educator at Penndale shortly thereafter. While she has supported many classrooms in co-taught environments, her primary focus the past few years has been in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math. When Steph is not teaching, you will find her running, cooking, or traveling.