

Lauren Pejka: Stay Positive and Persevere

Lauren Pejka, 6th grade special educator at Montgomery Elementary believes that, "As educators, we are privileged to be positive role models for our students." By exemplifying the quote, "it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness", Lauren encourages students to stay positive and persevere always. Lauren's co-teacher, Carrie Covellens, shares, "Lauren is a constant source of encouragement for our students at Montgomery. Her kindness and compassion for education and her students is evident daily. Due to these qualities, Lauren's students are willing to take risks in their education and therefore show growth and individual improvement. As a co-teacher, she is supportive and always willing to be honest and open in regards to our instruction. She has made inclusion such a smooth transition for me. Our classroom is one where the students want to be."

Lauren indicates that she has personally experienced the "awe inspiring success stories of inclusion," but acknowledges that, "It is nearly impossible to experience success without some and (at times) completely overwhelming challenges. This quote inspires me to be creative and innovative, all while continuing to troubleshoot and reflect. My job as an educator will always be a work in progress. As I learn something new each and every day, it is my own personal goal that I continue to light a candle."



This is Lauren's fourth year of teaching and her second year in the North Penn School District. She states she is "thrilled to be in sixth grade (with the best team ever), again!" Lauren graduated from Temple University with her Bachelors in Early Childhood Education and Masters in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) concentrating in Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). Upon graduating college, she worked as an ABA therapist with children as young as two years old. Soon after, she accepted a learning support position co-teaching in a fifth grade classroom at MaST Community Charter School and spent a year as an Autistic Support teacher. In her spare time, Lauren loves spending time outdoors with her fiance (soon-to-be hubby as of November 4th!), their one-year-old Irishdoodle named Penelope, and five-year-old cat named Tunaman.