



MIA SMITH

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Hi, I'm Mia Boardman Smith, and I've taught English and journalism at TPHS for 19 years. The thing I love most about my job is getting to hang with students all day. In fact, the primary reason I'm hesitant to retire (when the time comes) is that I'll miss the wisdom and perspective of my students, both of which keep me young, current and on my toes. Teaching and learning are infinitely interesting and challenging, and no two days ever go exactly the same way, so duplicating those things in retirement will take a concerted and creative effort. As part of my job over the years, I have advised the Falconer newspaper, the Freeflight yearbook and the FirstFlight literary magazine. Shepherding students through an understanding of their First Amendment rights and responsibilities as student journalists and artists is one of the most fulfilling mandates I've had in life.

I came to teaching as a mid-life second career after working as an advertising copywriter, freelance writer and mom for many years and hope to continue to write for as long as I have something interesting to say. My sons, Kellen, 38, and Cameron, 33, are both artists and have provided me with my greatest joys in life, and I have been lucky to gain a daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law-to-be in the last couple of years. I'm a lifelong reader, writer, skier and cook, all of which feed me in some way. I can't wait to get the kids back on campus next fall!