



Shay Belair

Middle School Math Teacher

Tolland Middle School

M.Ed. – Mathematics Education, Western
Governors University, 2012

BA – Mathematics, WSC '04

ABA – Business Management, Northern Essex
Community College, 2001

Currently I am a 7th grade math teacher at Tolland Middle School. I started my career teaching middle school but also taught High School mathematics at Tolland High School and Applied mathematics and Statistics at Baypath College. Over the course of my teaching career, I have seen the growing importance of how mathematics and technology are vital to the success of my students. Computer programs such as GeoGebra, Geometer's Sketchpad, and Excel Sheets, to name of few, have been important components to the courses that I teach. These programs also help students prepare for jobs in their future where computer skills and the learning new computer programs are essential and often involve a working knowledge of practical mathematics.

My favorite position was the 2 years I taught math support for students in grades 6-8. I was able to really connect with the student and help them individually grow in confidence and math skills.

During my time as a college student, I changed majors 3 times before I discovered my calling. I just tried what peaked my interest and if it did not work out, I went back and looked into something else. When I discovered my passion for math, I received support and encouragement from incredible professors at Westfield State College who did not let me give up. They fueled my passion that has not stopped since I started teaching. The impression my professors at Westfield State College left on me lasts until the present. I hope to instill that same passion for learning in my students that my professors instilled in me long after they have left my classroom and continue their education.