

## Member Spotlight – Kathleen Brinegar

**The Bio:** I have been an educator for 20 years: I have been a middle grades English and Social Studies teacher; the coordinator of the Vermont Literacy and Learning Initiative, a middle and high school literacy grant program; and am currently a teacher educator, coordinating the middle and secondary teacher education programs at Northern Vermont University. In that time I have also consulted in middle and high schools throughout VT. In addition I am the co-editor of [\*Middle School Journal\*](#).

**A Favorite Book:** As a teacher educator, I try to incorporate young adult literature into my courses whenever possible, usually through the use of choice books. However, I did require teacher candidates to read [\*Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You\* by Jason Reynolds & Ibram X Kendi](#) this past spring semester and I'm so glad I did. The most common reaction I received from the predominantly white candidates was anger that they had not learned any of the history presented in the book. It sparked excellent conversations.

**An Influence:** So many people. One of the things I love about being an educator is that I am constantly learning and growing. The work of [Gloria Ladson-Billings](#) has been at the core of my work for many years, reminding me always to acknowledge my identities and center those of my students in everything we do. In recent times, I am inspired by folk such as [Bettina Love](#), whose work reminds me every day to question and transform the status quo, and [Cornelius Minor](#), from whose work I've learned to truly listen to students.



**A Go-to Strategy:** My go-to instructional strategies of late are various forms of structured text-based discussions. I've done some training in recent months with the [School Reform Initiative Protocols](#), and they have become my go-to when planning instruction. They are well-developed, but also easy to modify based on the context in which I am using them. They have been especially helpful in encouraging all students to participate in online synchronous discussions since I've been teaching over Zoom. I also appreciate that they center listening as much as they center speaking.

**Something Personal:** Running keeps me sane. I am about 560 days into a run streak. I also love to read. One thing I can honestly say I've been grateful for these past few months is that more time at home means more time with a book in my hands.