

Member Spotlight – Kaylin Gangi

The Bio: This is my third year teaching in MA public schools! I currently teach third grade in Lynn, MA, and absolutely love it! This is my second year with third grade and it is my personal favorite grade to teach. As a classroom teacher in Lynn, our curriculum is composed of Math, English Language Arts, Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Social Emotional Learning!

A Favorite Book: I actually have two! My literacy lessons that go with [Peter Pan](#) are exciting and rich; it is very fulfilling and heartwarming to give literacy lessons that every student is involved and invested in. My students have a chance to be seen and heard during these lessons! I also really enjoy teaching [How Tia Lola Came to Stay](#) by Julia Alvarez. This is a book that I use with students in summer school. It is about Miguel, his sister Juanita, and their mother who move to Vermont from New York after Miguel and Juanita's parents divorce. Their Tia Lola comes to visit from the Dominican Republic, but Miguel and Juanita do not speak much Spanish and Tia Lola does not speak any English! The story follows the adventures of this little family and how they navigate language and cultural differences. My students love it because many of them have either moved to the US from another country or have family who did the same.

Something Personal: I love reading; I'm in the middle of reading three books right now! I can also almost always be found in Fenway Park during baseball season!



A Strategy: I am constantly trying to tie real life into all of my lessons. I have found that the information given to teachers by the curriculum can sometimes be too abstract. Once I give my own example, I encourage students to think of similar situations in their lives and turn it into an entirely new discussion. Relating concepts to things they see and do in their everyday lives sets off that light bulb in their brains and helps them connect the dots!

An Influence: I have had so many amazing professors, but two really stand out. One, who taught a Children's Literature class, saw potential in me that I had never recognized before. She encouraged me to take more education courses, and I never looked back! The second was an art history professor. I was dreading the course, but it turned into a favorite with some of my fondest memories. My professor was so enthusiastic and energetic; it was clear that she absolutely loved what she did and wanted her students to, as well. I still keep in touch with her to this day.