

# Teachers of the Month

## September 2022

### K-6 Teacher - Hillary Harm



Hillary Harm grew up in Boise, Idaho, but has lived all over the United States. (16 different cities and 9 different states, at last count.) She graduated from Linfield College with a degree in Elementary Education, also spending six months studying at the Universidad de Costa Rica in Central America. Hillary earned her Master's Degree in Education, with an emphasis in bilingual education, from Boise State University in 2019.

She first became involved in classical education in 1993, and has continued to learn and grow in this field over the past thirty years. Her favorite subjects to teach are Math, Latin, and Literature. This is her tenth year teaching in a public school, and her fifth year teaching at Xavier.

She and her husband have three adult sons, a daughter-in-law, and 2 grandchildren. Hillary has been an official with USA Swimming since 2015 and can often be found on the pool deck during swim meets. At home she can usually be found reading, singing showtunes, or cleaning something.

Q. What do you like about teaching in a charter school?

A. *Not every school is the best fit for every child. Charter schools allow parents to choose the most appropriate educational setting for their child. I appreciate knowing that parents who choose to enroll their children in a charter school have done so because they find the mission and the focus of that specific school to be of value.*

In your opinion, what sets Xavier apart from other educational institutions?

A. *I love that at Xavier we focus on teaching the whole child. Though academics are important, we want to see our students learn to love those things that are true, good, and beautiful.*

Q. What motivates you as an educator?

A. *I've been studying classical pedagogy for 30 years. I network with classical educators across the country. I enjoy attending Classical Education conferences and listening to talks on this beautiful way of educating children. This continued learning and growth motivates me as an educator.*

*Over the years I have grown, both as a teacher and as a person. The canon, the Great Books, connects me to men and women that lived hundreds or thousands of years ago. I can see our shared humanity. The challenge of helping modern children to find and delight in that same connection- that shared humanity with people of the past- also motivates me.*

## 7-12 Teacher - Shawn Moses



Mr. Moses is in his second year at Xavier Charter School. In addition to teaching science, Mr. Moses is also involved with the Outdoor Club, and is director of Xavier's RTI program. He is in his seventeenth year of teaching overall, and has also taught in Kentucky, Maryland, and his home state of Ohio.

Mr. Moses believes that an education in science bears relevance to students in all walks of life. In an era in which facts are often subordinate to political ideology, science encourages reason and informed skepticism, valuable skills for citizens of the modern world.

Outside of school, Mr. Moses is an avid adventurer. He is a scuba diver, hiker, and long-distance cycle tourer. He has climbed many of Idaho's tallest mountains, including all of the state's 12,000 foot peaks. In addition, he enjoys exploring Idaho's night skies with his telescope.

Q. What do you like about teaching in a charter school?

A. The students at Xavier are a cut above. Their enthusiasm for education is certainly inspiring!

Q. In your opinion, what sets Xavier apart from other educational institutions?

A. Xavier has high expectations and a degree of academic rigor that is unique in the public

schools that I have taught. Although my specialty lies in the sciences, I also appreciate the strong emphasis that Xavier places on the arts.

Q. What motivates you as an educator?

A. Students today are preparing to be part of a complex and challenging world. Their generation faces obstacles that are unprecedented in history. Nevertheless, I am optimistic that they will be able to create a prosperous and just world for themselves, and I would like to play some small part helping them to accomplish that.