

School Leadership

Brion grew up in New Hampshire just a few towns away from Spaulding Academy. Even though he lived close to Spaulding it was unfamiliar to him until he applied and interviewed for a 1:1 paraeducator position in 2006. Prior to working at Spaulding, Brion attended Keene State College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Design. After Keene he moved to Charleston SC, where he worked for a small graphic design company for several years before moving back to NH. When Brion moved back to NH he applied to Spaulding Academy thinking his time here would be a temporary stop while he sought out graphic design opportunities in the area. However, he quickly grew to love working with the students and staff of Spaulding. "It wasn't long before I knew I would not be returning to graphic design", says Brion.

Brion has worked at Spaulding Academy & Family Services for 17 years now and has had the opportunity to take on various roles during his time. Brion states that, "before becoming the School Training Supervisor, my career with Spaulding Academy began as a 1:1 paraeducator working with a young student in our Neurological Behavioral program." Through his first few years he developed an understanding of the unique challenges that Spaulding students and their families face. He also experienced the rewards of helping students progress and grow academically and socially despite their challenges. After working as a paraeducator for several years Brion moved to the role of Associate Teacher and then to a Special Education Teacher. During his time at Spaulding he has worked with a wide range of students from our Intensive and Neurobehavioral programs.

Brion says, "Regardless of the position I have held, my focus has always been on helping the children we serve. I enjoy playing a part in a student's progress while working with our community of dedicated and talented professionals. I am excited about our focus on Social Emotional Learning and the integration of Choose Love in our programming."

To Learn More Visit: <https://www.spauldingservices.org/>



Brion Schaffnit,
School Training Supervisor

LEARNING



Sculpture

This month in art class we have been learning about sculpture! Our students have been creating three-dimensional works of art with different materials. They have created sculptures of humans from aluminum foil. Once they finished their sculptures, we used a bright light to examine the different shapes of shadows each sculpture would cast. Our students found the perfect shadow, traced it, and filled it in with black paint. While making these aluminum human sculptures the art room was full of laughter and creativity!

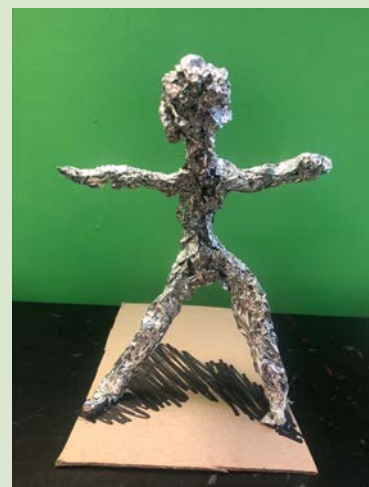
Robyn Allen,
Art Teacher



Ask Your Child: Do you want to make a 3-D sculpture?

Patrick, age 11

STUDENT ART



William, age 19

Healthy Snacks

Fruit Skewers with Yogurt Dip

Instructions:

1. Cut fruit into heart shaped pieces with a knife or cookie cutter
2. Put fruit pieces on a skewer or popsicle stick
3. Serve with plain yogurt sweetened with 1-2 tps of honey, vanilla yogurt, or strawberry yogurt as a dip

Ingredients:

- Watermelon, strawberries, grapes, and kiwi (or any other fruit you can cut into a heart shape)
- Skewer or popsicle sticks
- Strawberry, vanilla, or plain yogurt
- Optional: Honey to sweeten plain yogurt if using



For more information visit:

<https://fruitsandveggies.org/recipes/heart-shaped-fruit-skewers-with-yogurt-dip/>

Ask Your Child: What is your favorite snack?

Physical Therapy

Independent mobility is the foundation for participation in all aspects of campus life. The physical therapy program at Spaulding Academy aims to promote and facilitate independent mobility and participation in all aspects of life on campus. Physical therapy consults with staff in EChO (Experiential Challenges Outdoors), physical education, nursing, occupational and speech therapy, residential areas, and classrooms to ensure that all areas of students' lives at Spaulding are accessible, and that students have meaningful participation in all activities. With the recent addition of the medically intensive program at Spaulding, new challenges have arisen in providing access and participation to all students. Under the guidance of the physical therapy program, leadership at Spaulding has purchased specialty equipment to assist students to fully participate. Some of this equipment has included a specialized scooter board designed for students who can not sit on a traditional scooter board. This piece of equipment can be used in therapy, in physical education, and in EChO and provides an activity for students who may have difficulty participating in traditional physical education/recreational activities. Leadership has also purchased high-end, specialty chairs that can be used by students with extra positioning needs and can be customized for individual needs. The physical therapy program has been strengthened by community providers, including Rehab Equipment Associates (REQ) and Sunrise Orthotics/Prosthetics. Both community providers graciously come to campus and work with students and the physical therapist to provide consultations and evaluations for rehab equipment (wheelchairs, walkers, positioning equipment) and orthotics. Their support of Spaulding students has made scheduling appointments easier, and more importantly, has gotten needed equipment/devices to our students faster. As the medically insensitive program continues to grow, further campus accessibility projects, equipment acquisitions, and collaboration with community partners will be a focus of the physical therapy program and the leadership team to continue to ensure accessibility and meaningful participation for all students. Rebecca says, "I have the best job!"

Rebecca Veltri,
Physical Therapist

HAPPENINGS



Ask Your Child: How can you make a difference?

To learn more visit: <https://chooselovemovement.org/home/>