

Meet our School Administration

LEARNING

Melonie began her career at AT&T in New Hampshire where she worked for eleven years. It required her and her three young children to relocate first to Harrisburg, PA, and then to Kansas City. Ultimately, she decided to return to New Hampshire to raise her children among family and pursue a new career. She enrolled in computer and software courses at Penn State College to pave the way for her new journey.

Nearly 27 years ago, Melonie moved back home to embark on her new career at Spaulding Academy & Family Services, which she believes was destined. Melonie started in the Neurobehavioral Program as an Administrative Assistant, where she revamped the filing system for student records. She later took on the role of Switchboard, collaborated with top executives, and worked closely with the CEO and Health Services Department. Twelve years later, she transitioned to her current role as the Special Education Administrative Assistant, working closely with the principal, academic staff, and external agencies. She cherishes interactions with the students and takes pride in being known as 'the Office Lady,' often amused when students proclaim her as 'the one in charge.'

Known affectionately as "Mel," she derives great joy from witnessing smiles on students' faces and engaging in conversations with them in her office. Melonie also shares a special bond with a former NB student she worked with at Spaulding 25 years ago. She became his legal guardian and continues to support him in his adult life, fostering a deep family-like connection. Their journey together includes Special Olympic trips, numerous celebrations, and an enduring sense of love.

Melonie states, "I am grateful for my journey that led me to my forever career. The journey that brought us home. The journey that taught myself, and my children (and now my grandchildren too), the blessings that we have. The many friends we have made, the special friendships my children made with our students, and our Spaulding Family over the years. I have seen Spaulding grow immensely and I am very thankful to have been, and to still be, part of this journey. Helping children, supporting families, teaching, & learning. This was my meant to be career and journey."



Melonie Bell,
Special Education Administrative Assistant

Fiber Arts

This month in the art room our students have been learning about ancient Egyptian art! Students have learned about art history surrounding Egypt and then made work inspired by the style of the art we learned about. We also learned how to write our names in hieroglyphics! In this picture there are three pendants made of shrinky plastic. The students in Tracey's class wrote their names in hieroglyphics and colored the pendants, they were then shrunk down to necklace size. The students who made these worked very hard on them and they did a great job!

Robyn Allen,
Art Teacher

STUDENT ART



Ask Your Child: What's their favorite thing about art?



Meet Wellness Coach Jen Adams

NUTRITION

Hello, I am Coach Jen Adams, the owner and Founder of Adams Coaching and Consulting and Fierce Spirit Fitness. I am an Ace Certified Health Coach, Ace Certified Fitness Trainer, and a Certified Life Coach UNH. I am Recovery Coach Trained, and trauma informed. I have been coaching, consulting, and training with organizations, families, and individuals since 2019 when I first opened the doors of my professional coaching and consulting practice. Prior to starting my own practice, I worked for many years closely and intensely with individuals and families that have survived trauma. I get to work with Spaulding Academy staff and students each week helping them live healthy and strong lives and I am excited for this new opportunity to connect with all of you each month sharing tips, tricks, and ideas that will help you to live strong healthy lives too! Check out this month's tip that is focused on nutrition, each month we will talk about all kinds of wellness related topics.

We can't have a one size fits all approach when it comes to nutrition, but something that I think we can all do is practice the PAUSE. Before you put something in your mouth that isn't in alignment with what you want for yourself PAUSE. Before you add that heaping pile of seconds on you plate PAUSE. Before you polish off that sugary soda PAUSE. If you practice the pause and take that moment before you mindlessly consume maybe you will determine that you don't really want it, don't need it, or that it's just not in alignment with your goals. PAUSING will bring you power. Power over your choices, power over your mind. If you pause it may give you the moment you need to understand yourself and make a choice that helps you to feel good. Try it. You're not depriving yourself; nothing is bad. You are just pausing. Giving yourself a moment.



Jen Adams,
Wellness Coach

School Social Workers

HAPPENINGS

I aim to improve access to resources and support for students at Spaulding by building community partnerships, sharing valuable information, and ensuring a smooth transition for students. My goal is to offer resources like food banks, vocational experiences, and in-home support to create a comfortable environment for change and growth. By collaborating with community partners, we can provide more opportunities for our students.

Brittany Labonte,
Transitional School Social Worker

I'm a School Social Worker and TBRI practitioner at Spaulding, and I cherish the moments when I greet students with warmth and create a safe space for them. These interactions help me connect with each child, gauge their emotional well-being, and provide support. I also offer post-crisis assistance, teach life skills, and collaborate with parents to enhance their understanding of child development. My aim is to foster a nurturing environment where everyone can thrive.

Gina Wheeler,
School Social Worker

With over two decades of experience in social work, including homeschooling my own children, I'm passionate about holistic child development. As a school social worker at Spaulding, I support students individually, collaborate with parents, and aim to strengthen family-school partnerships. My goal is to create a nurturing environment that benefits every child in our care, combining my love for social work with education.

Cardella Sutcliffe,
School Social Worker



Gina Wheeler, Brittany Labonte, Cardella Sutcliffe