

Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Orrson

By Mel McGlynn '24



For this Teacher Spotlight, I decided to interview a 10th Grade Learning Support teacher, Mrs. Orrson. Mrs. Orrson is located in room 304 and also teaches Learning Support English. The first question I asked was, "What inspired you to be a Learning Support teacher?"

"I always knew early on that there were only two career paths that interested me, teaching and law. My decision to pursue teaching came from wanting to do something that would hopefully have a positive impact and make a difference just like the teachers I had as a Spartan. Special education was a good fit because it allows me to work with students who need extra help and support. There is nothing better than when a student makes progress on their goals or has an "ah ha" moment after I have worked with them."

Along with that, I asked "What is it like teaching students and helping them?"

"Each day for me is a little different than the day before but almost always busy. A few of my responsibilities are providing help and support to the students on my caseload, teaching an English class, providing students with a quiet space to take tests, implementing interventions to help students in the areas they struggle and progress monitoring. I really enjoy helping students and getting to know them throughout the school year."

"Currently, the class of 2025 are 10th graders, how is it?"

"They are a big class, so my caseload is bigger than usual. So far, so good. I am looking forward to having a great school year and helping them grow and be successful."

Mr. Orrson, Mrs. Orrson's husband, is a gym/health teacher here as well. Along with Madison, their daughter, who is a sophomore.

"I love having my family in the building, I really enjoy seeing them throughout the day."

"Since you teach English, what is your favorite novel to cover?"

"I really enjoy the novel we cover during the 4th quarter, Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury. It is a book that warns of the danger of the media controlling the masses and the destruction of individual thought, censorship, by burning books."

Outside of school, Mrs. Orrson enjoys traveling and spending time with family and friends. Also watching Madison play field hockey.

"Once a Spartan, always a Spartan. This is something I like to say... It simply means that your time at WWV will always be a part of who you are in both big and small ways."

Spartan Spotlight: Olivia Ravert

By Darcy Kizis '25

Olivia Ravert is the person I chose to interview for a spartan spotlight. Olivia is a junior who is talented in many aspects of the arts. She mainly focuses on things such as band and theater.

Olivia is talented in both theater and band, which is why I chose her for a spartan spotlight. She does various school related activities relating to the arts such as the fall play and marching band. It is intriguing to know what Olivia thinks about both these activities.

In the band, she plays percussion instruments and says she enjoys them very much. When asking why she chose to play percussion, she replied "Well I was originally going to play the flute and then the teacher my 5th grade year made me hate it so I chose percussion instead for middle school and I've loved it since."

I also asked what her favorite part about being in the band was, to which she replied, "My favorite thing about band would honestly be marching band in general. Everything about it is fun to me, from hot band camp days to cold game nights is a great memory for me to have." To her, it seems as if marching band is a great way to hold memories and have fun.

As for theater, I asked why she took such an interest in it. She said, "I guess I've wanted to do it since I was a kid, but never got the chance until recently." Olivia is also in the fall play, which is a great opportunity for her to express her interest in theater.

I also asked what her favorite part about being in theater was, to which she said, "My favorite part about being in theater is the feeling of finally being seen and heard even as another character, and it makes you build bonds with more people."

Despite being so talented in both theater and band, there are difficulties to both. This is why I asked what the most difficult part about being in both band and theater was. To this she replied, "Learning the new material in both can be really scary in the beginning, getting thoughts like, 'I'm never going to memorize this,' only makes it worse."

Overall, it was very insightful to interview a person such as Olivia and see what she thinks of what she is talented in, theater and band.

