

Paige Nelson

Grade 10

Borah High School

Boise, Idaho

Driven By Teaching

There are many things that I have a passion for, one of which is teaching kids. When I was going to a new “big” school for the first time, my kindergarten year, the nerves were very real. My parents reassured me that it was only going to be a half day and I would get to see them and my younger sister again soon. My kindergarten teacher was one of the sweetest people I have ever met. She greeted me with a smile and eased my nerves. While I don’t remember a lot from that year, I do remember all of my elementary school teachers. Whether it was my second grade teacher who inspired my love of art, or my third grade teacher who taught me to persevere and work hard, or even my fourth grade teacher who taught me how teachers care even when they are strict. All of these teachers have one thing in common, the love for teaching and caring for kids. This inspired me to want to do the same thing.

The fire started burning for teaching when I was still in elementary school. The first time I recall trying to teach was my eighth grade year. I taught first graders and kindergarteners as an assistant cheerleading coach. The love I found for corralling and teaching younger kids was then set ablaze. Since joining the National Junior Honor Society I have been volunteering with kids. Some of my favorite memories from volunteering are my coaching and the connections I formed

with the younger girls, as well as helping out with a low income elementary school carnival.

These experiences have taught me that there are crazy moments, sweet moments, and moments you want to just give up. Since my freshman year I have continued to coach and I have spent countless hours helping prepare lesson plans for my third grade teacher. I have also taken the Parenting and Child Development class and the first part of Early Childhood Professions at Borah High School. I have been in AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, since 7th grade and am determined to follow it through to senior year. This program has given me the opportunity to research colleges and refine my note taking and test taking skills.

One of the schools I have found to be my dream school is Idaho State University. I had the opportunity to tour the campus early in the first semester of the 2024-2025 school year. The greatest part of this school for me is they have my dream program and they pay their student teachers. I am going to continue with the National Honor Society while I am at Borah. This will give me the opportunity to volunteer more specifically in elementary school environments. Within all that drives me, teaching is my passion I want to pursue as a future career.