

Learning Resource Spotlight: Chris Delmedico



Chris Delmedico, our K-1-2 P.E. teacher, is a big presence. If you're nearby when he's ushering kids from Hambidge Commons to Daniels Gym and back again or when he's urging kids to eat, eat! in the lunchroom, you can't miss him. And isn't this fitting for a P.E. teacher? Kids in Chris's universe know their limits -- clean your plate, mind your space and have fun. After all, it's in the gym and on the ball field where Chris really helps kids reach their full potentials -- on full bellies of course.

Chris teaches P.E. to all our K-1-2 classes as well as co-teaches one 3-4-5 P.E. with Stacey Levy each week. He's in the lunchroom Monday-Thursday, in the gym all week, and on the pitch or baseball diamond coaching middle schoolers in the fall and spring. Chris and Stacey work closely together to create continuity among the K-5 classrooms, and as a colleague succinctly puts it, "He really packs it in every week."

Chris began working as our K-5 P.E. teacher in 2014, but he began in education at the age of sixteen working at a summer school for children with special needs. Chris's journey unfolded when working with preschool-age children on various levels of the Autism Spectrum. "That began a lifelong interest in education and teaching. I went to college and worked to be a speech therapist, however, my work with children on the Autism Spectrum changed my life path." In 2013, Chris moved to Denver from Minnesota and found the Stanley Teacher Prep Program. He interned at Stanley and Paddington Station before coming on full-time as our P.E. teacher.

"My career so far has been a unique and eventful experience," says Chris. "My professional background is extremely diverse and I continue to be excited to learn each day." When taking time out from the energetic and non-stop day at Stanley, he reflects on his proudest moments creating, organizing, and implementing specialized therapy techniques as related to the field of Autism and emotional regulation.

Here, his job proves life-affirming, too: "The one thing that represents Stanley to me is the interaction of children with all adults of the community at the school," says Chris. "Children here are taught to explore and question the world around them and in doing so, they feel comfortable interacting with all members of our community. What excites me most about my work is that it is not sectioned off to the classroom that I teach in. I feel very passionate about my influence on children and the community as a whole."

A favorite quote of Chris's comes from Australian singer-songwriter Xavier Rudd: "Well, we are so lucky today; The earth as our playground -- it's culture to amaze. Well, I know now know I know now know... what lies beneath..." Explains Chris, "As a P.E. teacher I have the unique job of experiencing the earth as our playground. The world around us has many things to offer, and I always thrive to explore mountains, swim rivers, and climb trees. Children need this exploration, and each day I try to open their eyes to the wonders around us."

An avid Minnesota Wild and Colorado Avalanche fan, Chris takes in sports when he can, and spends the rest of his free time exploring Colorado's great outdoors. And what would Stanley's K-5 kids say about Chris? "My students would say that I am EXTREMELY FUN," says Chris -- "a bit strict -- and fair. They would also tell you that I make them EAT THEIR FOOD at lunch!"