
Dr. Charissa (Kari) Reardon
11th & 12th grade Learning Support Teacher

Parkland High School

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My Background:

I grew up in Wilmington, DE and I graduated from McKean High School in 1986. Most of my family lives in the Kennett Square/West Chester area now. As a family we spent a lot of time at Bethany Beach where my parents eventually retired. There have been many wonderful times at the beach swimming, playing corn hole, and eating crabs.

My Schooling:

I studied education at Kutztown University. I majored in Special Education and Elementary Education. I also concentrated in Urban Education. When I graduated in 1994, I was dually certified in Special Education and Elementary education.

I continued my education mid way through my career, and earned my Master's in Education from Wilkes University. My degree is in Online Teaching, which was very useful during the Covid lockdown.

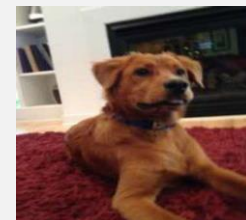
I also began working on my Ed.D in the summer of 2019. My program of study changed a great deal due to Covid and I only got to the main campus of Pitt twice over the 3.5 year program. However, I successfully defended my dissertation during the summer of 2023. I learned a great deal about the transition process and the many outside agency supports available to many of my students. Please review my website for some of what I learned.



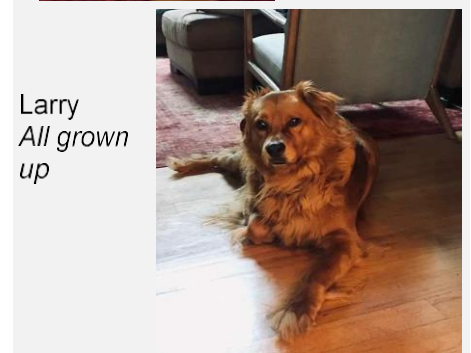
My daughter, Cheyenne, and me in Fairfax VA after her graduation from American University.



My daughter and me at an Ed Sheridan Concert in 2014



Larry
Our puppy



Larry
All grown up

My Teaching Experience:

I began my teaching career in Reading School District (1994-1997). I was hired as a drop-out prevention teacher in Southwest Middle School. It was a great experience. My class worked on many fun projects; a Service Learning project tutoring elementary students at a local elementary school, participated in a college course speaking to a teaching prep class for future urban teachers, and competed in a National Service Learning Competition where they earned the top national middle school program.

From there I was hired by the Allentown School District (1997-Jan. 2002). Most of my time was spent at Dieruff High School as a learning support teacher. However, I did briefly teach at Allen High School. I would provide direct instruction in main content area subjects to students with a learning disability. While at Dieruff High School, I taught Math and English to the same students from their freshman to senior school year. We began a student store called the Hip Hop Husky Shop. We would make t-shirts and beaded jewelry for the school's spirit week and occasionally individualize orders. By the third and final year we had earned a small sum to end our "fiscal year" in the black! Eighteen out of the twenty students who were involved with this program from the beginning earned their high school diploma with their academic peers.

In January 2023, I was hired by the Parkland School District as a tenth grade learning support teacher. In the 2018-2019 school year, I became an 11th/12th grade Learning Support teacher. Many of the students I work with are aspiring to attend college or technical school. Therefore, I focus on the needed academic skills, such as developing strong study skills, and self-advocacy skills. I try to help students learn about their strengths so they can overcome or improve their weaknesses. My goal is to help students build confidence in their academic ability so they leave high school with an accurate understanding of their true potential.

Reaching academic and/or life goals are never easy tasks. Where there is a will, there is a way. Perseverance and grit are important character traits and habits of mind worth pursuing. My final thought I would like to close with is there are vast resources and programs for students with learning difference. Please review some of the resources listed in this newsletter as well as my website. There are more than one path to get to a destination. The trick is finding the path that feels the best for one's self.

Important Links

My Website:

[Reardonstudyskills10](https://www.reardonstudyskills10.com)

Inspirational videos:

[Never Give Up](#)

[How bad do you want it](#)

[Impose your will](#)

Interesting Blogs:

[NCLD Blog](#)

[ADDitude](#)

[The Shutdown Learner](#)

Important Websites:

[PEAL Center](#)

[Transition Discoveries](#)

[Institute of Disabilities at Temple University](#)

[SWIFT Education Center](#)