

GW Teach NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2019



FEATURED GWTEACH STUDENT CHRIS CASTELLI

Chris Castelli, a sophomore at GWU studying Environmental Studies, is currently enrolled in the two introductory GWTeach classes - Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching and Step 2: Inquiry-Based Lesson Design.

"I learned about the program from a few friends and thought I would try it out," states Castelli. "I've always enjoyed teaching and thought it would be a great opportunity to see what it's like to be in a classroom."



Students in Step 1 and Step 2 teach in local DCPS elementary and middle schools.

"I am placed at Janney Elementary School, teaching 1st grade mathematics for Step 1," describes Castelli. "For Step 2, I'm teaching at McKinley Technology Middle School, where I am teaching 6th grade Green Architecture."

Many new GWTeach students are often impressed at the variety of teaching strategies, elective offerings, and positive classroom cultures that they observe and experience in DC public schools.

"Going into Ms. Henderson's 6th grade class for my first observation made the whole experience feel so much more exciting than I had expected," remembers Castelli. "I had never heard of Green Architecture as a class, so I had a lot of fun watching the lessons she taught. I'm currently an Environmental Studies major, so I couldn't wait to use my knowledge to write my own lessons and teach in the field for the first time!"

Students often describe Step 1 and Step 2 as atypical college courses in which they are challenged to rethink what they thought they knew about teaching and learning. Ultimately, students emerge with a stronger appreciation for all aspects of teaching and walk out of class with a toolbox of valuable skills that can be applied to any future profession.

"I have learned the importance of practicing everything before working with the students," states Castelli. "You never know what can go wrong in a lesson, so it is imperative that you try out the activities for yourself to make sure the lesson will go smoothly. Even if there is a part of the lesson where something can go wrong, having practice fixing the issue makes the lesson go much better."

Interested in the GWTeach program? GWTeach courses are open to all students at GW, so sign up for a Spring 2020 GWTeach class via BanWeb today!

- **Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching (GTCH 1001 - 1 credit)**
 - Wednesdays, 8:00AM-9:15AM (76923)
 - Wednesdays, 11:10AM-12:25PM (76922)
- **Step 2: Inquiry-Based Lesson Design (GTCH 1002 - 1 credit)**
 - Mondays, 8:00AM-9:15AM (73982)
- **Classroom Interactions (GTCH 3102 - 3 credits)**
 - Wednesdays, 12:45PM-3:15PM (74629)
- **Functions and Modeling (GTCH 3202 - 3 credits)**
 - Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:35AM-10:50AM (75672)



GWTEACH SCHOLARSHIPS

GWTeach Apprentice Teacher Scholarship: Scholarships in the amount of \$5,000 each are available for students who intend to get certified to teach through the program, are in good academic standing, and have a financial need. **Applications on <https://gwteach.gwu.edu/current-students> are due by Friday, November 8, 2019.**

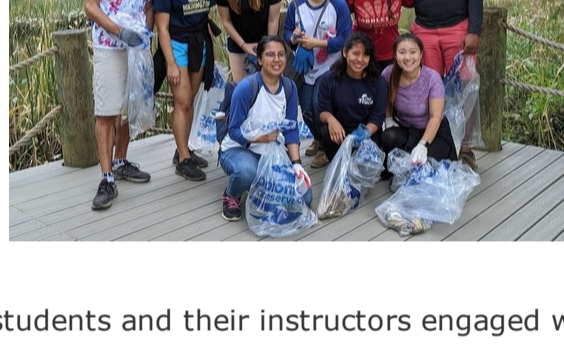
GWTeach Financial Need Scholarship: Scholarships up to \$10,000 each are available to academically strong GWTeach students planning a career in education. Qualifying applicants will be prioritized based on the highest financial need until funds are exhausted. **Applications on <https://gwteach.gwu.edu/current-students> are due by Friday, November 8, 2019.**

GW Noyce Scholarship: Scholarships up to \$20,000 per year are available for juniors and seniors admitted into the Noyce program, which supports STEM majors on their journey to become teachers in high-need schools after graduation. **For more information or to apply visit <https://noyce.columbian.gwu.edu/>. Early Consideration deadline is December 1, 2019.**



GWTEACH FIELD TRIP

CLEANING THE POTOMAC RIVER



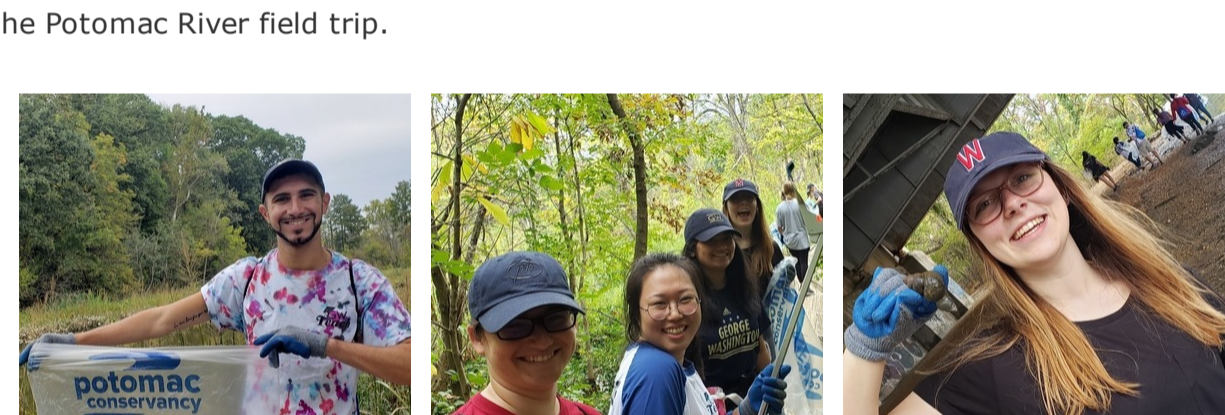
On Saturday, September 28th, GWTeach's Project-Based Learning (PBL) class took a trip to Theodore Roosevelt Island to help the Potomac River Conservancy clean up trash from the Potomac River. Taking in the natural beauty and crisp morning air of the island, PBL

students and their instructors engaged with class content material in its natural setting.

"We've been trying to figure out what students at GWU can do to help the Potomac River in their everyday lives," says Rebecca Blacker, a PBL student. "There are so many different facets that constitute the health of the Potomac River. We worked in groups to figure out how GW students can improve pollution levels, fish populations, the local habitat, urban land, and the access people have to appreciate the River."

PBL students released Instagram posts informing GWU students on how they can live more sustainably in their local environment, suggesting students choose plant-based detergents (to reduce pollution), eat catfish (which are overpopulating the river), use sustainably built urban infrastructure such as Square80 (to improve the natural cycling of water), plant trees (improving land stabilization), and just plain enjoying the River (promoting its value to a wider community). The posts have been viewed by GWU students, faculty, and even the Potomac River Conservancy!

Visit us at https://www.instagram.com/gw_teach to stay updated on GW happenings like the Potomac River field trip.



CLASSROOM RESOURCES

NEWSELA



Have you ever wanted your students to improve their independent research skills while piquing their interest in current events? Overwhelmed by the breadth of information available on the internet? Try Newsela!

Newsela is a search engine that curates news articles based on common subject matter. Newsela can be a great starting point for students unsure of where to start their research projects, bringing up reliable and easily digestible material from the National Geographic, Washington Post, Smithsonian, and more. Furthermore, Newsela only brings up age-appropriate articles, which is helpful if you are working in an elementary-age classroom.

Working in a Project-Based Learning classroom? One may find real-world models and applications of various education topics, showing the significance of their work to the greater community. Looking up words such as "telescopes," "arable land," or "animal behavior" will bring up reports of what actual scientists are doing to engineer solutions to societal problems we face today.

Newsela can also be utilized to discuss the strengths and limitations of scientific findings with students, identifying biases present in the articles or identifying new-findings in the ever-changing body of scientific knowledge.

Newsela is free and open to all at <https://newsela.com/>.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY NOVEMBER FOLKS!

GWTEACH BIRTHDAYS

- Ana Acunto: 11/2
- Ho-Jin Yeo: 11/12
- Jordan Griffin: 11/23



JOB POSTINGS!



TEACH IN THE DC COMMUNITY

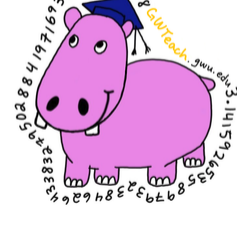
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES



- Discover SCIENCE with Dr. Bear: Volunteer with Children's National Hospital to teach nutrition sciences
 - November 4th from 11am-1pm @ Lamond-Riggs Library



KEEP UP WITH GWTEACH UPCOMING EVENTS



- Connecting In-School and Out-of-School STEM Learning and Teaching: NSTA's newest virtual STEM conference
 - December 7th from 10am-2pm @ <https://tinyurl.com/y3zmu65>



CONNECT WITH US!



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