



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The Southampton Union Free School District strongly believes that our future leaders benefit greatly from an education that involves EVERY member of the school district community. Knowing this, each staff member takes great pride in playing a role that directly influences student growth. Through our Staff Spotlight series, we will introduce the community to these dedicated employees, starting with the newest members of our Southampton team. Each individual joins our district with skills and experience that will enable our students and district to flourish.

JADE TURDIK

SOUTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL LIBRARIAN/LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Hometown:
Selden, New York

Name of high school attended:
Newfield High School

College(s), major(s) and certifications:

- LIU Post: M.S. in Library & Information Science/School Library Media
- Stony Brook University: B.A. in Cinema & Cultural Studies
- Suffolk County Community College: A.S. in Visual Arts

Family: I'm a proud aunt/godmother to my beautiful 5-year-old niece, Riley Rose Turdik. She just started kindergarten this year and is loving it so far! My boyfriend, Rob, and I have been together for two years. We are huge NY Rangers fans who met at a hockey game at MSG in NYC and have been together ever since. We are dog-parents to a 2-year-old labradoodle/goldendoodle named Finley. He is very friendly and loves to play fetch with his tennis balls. We love our doodle!

Hobbies: Reading/listening to audiobooks; yoga, Pilates, barre and Zumba; paddleboarding/kayaking; traveling; crafting; spending time with my dog, Finley.

Career aspirations as a child: To be a successful writer/author and famous film director. I still plan to write a children's picture book someday, and possibly a YA novel. (Then, hopefully, I will get a book made to screenplay/film with one of them!)

Achievements: I consider landing this position to be my greatest achievement so far. This is my first teaching position (post-graduation from grad school). I never imagined starting my career in the midst of a global pandemic, and this past March when everything shut down, I truly didn't believe that I would get any position in a school district for a long time. However, due to several years of experience in public libraries, I learned to adapt to these new changes quickly and creatively. I used the uncertainty and inconvenient changes as my drive to persevere through it, rigorously and passionately, which eventually brought me here!

Reason for selecting Southampton: I have always loved the towns along the south shore of Long Island. Since I grew up in a town that is further west from Southampton, it has always made traveling out east feel exciting and memorable – enjoying the beaches, farms, local businesses and community as a whole. Now I get to enjoy the beauty of eastern Long Island on a daily basis. Also, everyone has been very kind and welcoming to me. I feel that this district is a positive, safe, progressive and efficient environment where I will be supported by my colleagues and encouraged to excel and thrive. I feel extremely lucky and honored that Southampton selected me!

