Denielle Cox
General Education
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Denielle Cox grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and moved to Western New York as a teenager. She studied Secondary English Education and graduated *summa cum laude* from Buffalo State College. After college, she settled in East Aurora with her husband and four children. Before Mandala she worked as a substitute teacher in several surrounding school districts, and volunteered in a variety of youth programs.

Outside of school, she loves to rock climb, hike, read, and spend time with her family.

She started at Mandala in the spring of 2026.

*Educational Philosophy*

My goal as a teacher is to help students learn and grow as learners and people. I want them to feel respected and supported, while also being encouraged to take on challenges and think for themselves.

I am especially passionate about teaching my students how to think for themselves. I encourage my students to ask difficult questions and be willing to reevaluate their own ideas when presented with new evidence. I try to model that willingness by listening to my students and acknowledging when I may be wrong. I want them to know that their ideas and thoughts have value.

I also want my students to develop creativity and passion. Our modern world can chip away at deep thinking and creativity, and I want my students to keep developing those skills. I also aspire to pass on my love of literature to my students, teach them to think critically about what they read, and help them learn to express themselves through writing. I believe that students rise to the expectations we place on them, and that it is in their best interest to be challenged at school.

At the heart of my teaching is the belief that every human being deserves respect and every student should be treated with kindness. I strive to be patient when students struggle and to approach challenges with fairness and compassion.