

My name is Christy Nemeth and I have had the pleasure to teach first grade at Troy School located in North Troy, Vermont for 15 years. I have an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor's in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Special Education. I am furthering my education while studying leadership studies.

During my time at Troy School, I have taken on different roles in and outside the classroom. I have had the opportunity to be a teacher leader, math leader, literacy leader, teacher mentor and acting principal. I am part of the Troy School Leadership Team and Crisis Prevention Team. I have a passion to see each of my students learn and grow to their fullest potential.

I enjoy bringing my classroom to life when we are studying different topics and standards. Students are seen dissecting owl pellets, creating an owl's nest, designing bat houses, studying about white nose syndrome in bats and creating a bat cave. When learning about penguins our room becomes Antarctica where penguins are seen walking the halls, students are making snow and creating penguin habitats. Students are seeing first hand how an Emperor penguin is almost as tall as they are while completing research projects on different types of penguins.

When we are learning about Life in Colonial Times, first graders take on the name of a child that lived during that time and study what their life was like during that period. First graders are able to make connections within their learning by completing many

hands-on-activities and projects. During our reading centers, our classroom becomes a reading cafe, where students are reading different text while enjoying a warm beverage and treat. When students participate in our President Unit, they take part in the voting process and decide what changes they would make if they were President. They learn about democracy, our flag, symbols, laws and rules and take part in an inaugural ball. When students are having fun while learning they are then engaged in the classroom and are able to take ownership in their learning.

Field trips are also important for my first graders. This year, after learning about Owls, I invited VINS to Troy school for a presentation on Owls. After studying about pumpkins, students were able to visit a local pumpkin patch and bring home pumpkins. First graders just finished learning about bats, and I invited Jerry Schneider to our school for a presentation on bats. In the past, students have visited the Fairbanks Museum in St. Johnsbury after learning about animals in Vermont, students took a trip to Rooty's apple orchard located in Brownington after a unit on apples. Students have gone to the Flynn Center in Burlington for a play about Pete the Cat and to the Biodome in Canada after learning about Penguins. When students have learned about Colonial Life, I have invited members of the community who have studied life in that time period to come to our school to share their knowledge. Students enjoy visiting local farms-after completing a unit on Charlotte's Web. It is important to me to make connections within the community by bringing community members to my classroom or to have my students make connections outside the classroom through different field trips and learning opportunities.

My first graders have the opportunity to work with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife through their Scat and Track program where students get to learn about different animals and their habitats. Students then go on an adventure to look for scat and track. We then connect what we learn through this program to our writing, reading and math standards. We were even featured on WCAX. (wcax-christy nemeth)

Each day, one student in my first grade classroom is the V.I.P. This student has followed classroom rules and expectations and went above and beyond for their peers in teachers. This student has specific privileges throughout the school day.

One year we adopted a wounded soldier. First graders wrote letters, drew pictures and put together a Vermont care package. Last year, when my brother was overseas, we were able to connect with the soldiers in his unit. Students enjoyed communicating with our soldiers via zoom and asking questions about their roles and responsibilities. It was a wonderful experience for the soldiers and the students.

Every week, first graders head to the Jay Rec Center located in Jay Vermont for their outdoor learning adventure. Students are able to connect with nature and expand their knowledge outside the classroom. Students are seen exploring, getting dirty and just enjoy being a kid while learning in their community.

One year, myself and another coworker worked together to apply for a grant through the Vermont NEA. We were awarded the grant and students were able to have a greenhouse right in the classroom.

My greatest joy as a teacher is knowing I am making a difference in the lives of my students. Knowing that I will be there with a smile on my face and love them no matter what is very important to me. I love seeing a former student stop by my classroom and to say hi or to see how my day is going. There are many days where I need them more than they need me. It is vital for me to provide a fun and engaging learning environment where all students feel loved, valued and respected.

*I am also the President of the Irasburg PTC where my children attend school. You can see some things that we have done for the school and community on our facebook page: Irasburg Parents Club.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Christy Nemeth

Troy School

First Grade Teacher christy.nemeth@ncsuvt.org

Living a Dream

By **CHRISTOPHER ROY**
Staff Writer

NORTH TROY – Christy Nemeth is fulfilling her long-time dream. Nemeth is a first-grade teacher at Troy School. She has been an educator for 11 years, all of which has been at the Troy School. Before being an educator, Nemeth was a paraeducator at Brownington Central School for about five years.

"I fell in love with the kids and fell in love with the classroom," she said. "Just being around them made me feel happy."

Nemeth earned her associates from Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and a bachelor's and master's degrees at Lyndon State College, now known as Northern Vermont University. Nemeth, who knew she wanted to be a teacher at age seven, recalls that she used to play school with her friends and her sister.

"I was always the one in charge," she said.

Nemeth identified her favorite teacher as Deborah Dersch, who taught elementary education at Enfield Christian Academy in Enfield, Connecticut. Nemeth called her former educator compassionate and loving. Nemeth said that Dersch always made sure her voice was heard and that she felt respected and loved in her classroom.

For Nemeth, one of the best things about teaching is seeing a student's face light up when he or she understands a concept that she is teaching. Like her former mentor, Nemeth said she wants each child in her classroom to feel loved, welcomed, acknowledged and knowing that their opinions and ideas matter. Nemeth said one of the main reasons she became a teacher was to have a positive impact on her students.

"With all that is going on in the world, I want them to know that I am someone they can trust and confide in," she said. "Building relationships with my students and creating lasting memories is something that I treasure. I love it when a former student comes back and tells me I made a difference in his or her life. Even now, just seeing my students running up in the morning with a note or a coloring sheet they made the night before makes my job so worthwhile."

Teachers go into education because they have a desire to see each child learn and grow to the best of their abilities. Nemeth says her reward is seeing the children's faces light up when they see her in the morning and knowing she is a positive role model.



Christy Nemeth (Courtesy Photo)

"I view my job as not necessarily a job, but a family unit," she said. "I take the role of a teacher seriously. We're all family in first grade. When they hurt, I hurt. When they're sad, I'm sad. When they're happy, I'm happy. I love them."

Right after the schools closed for the COVID-19 pandemic, Nemeth was unsure when she might see her students again or even be allowed in the building.

"It's really emotional" she said.

Nemeth's peers speak highly of her.

"Christy has a passion for teaching," Troy School interventionist Cindy Laramee stated. "She is patient and kind. She meets the social, emotional, and academic needs of each of her students by building positive relationships with them and their families. Her classroom is a safe, engaging and fun place for students. Christy has good classroom management skills and high expectations for students. She is on several educational committees and consistently collaborates with her peers. Not only is Christy a dedicated teacher, she is a wonderful mother of three children and a friend.

"Christy is an amazing teacher," school paraprofessional Kim McCarthy stated. "She truly cares for each and every child that enters her classroom. Christy works hard to make sure that each child's needs are met educationally and emotionally. She is fair and consistent on how she approaches each child, whether it be for discipline, their learning, or daily needs. Christy is not only a great educator, but an awesome co-worker and friend."

By Ike Bendavid

WCAX interview for Scat and Track program

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CASTLETON, Vt. (WCAX) - To help get students outside into nature's classroom, Vermont Fish and Wildlife has partnered with schools in every corner of the state to help kids learn what's in their backyards.

With some fresh snow on the ground, Vermont Fish and Wildlife education specialist Corey Hart says it's a good time to get out and explore nature. "You can track animals year-round, but definitely with snow on the ground it's a lot easier to find evidence of them

On a short walk at the Green Mountain Conservation Camp in Castleton, we spot our first set of tracks. "So, looking at it, my guess would be chipmunk or squirrel, but probably chipmunk. "Raccoons waddle, which would explain why their tracks are on top of each other. So, when you are looking for them on snow, it's quite literally burying the track."

Hart runs the department's Scat and Tracks Program. It involves biologists and others calling into classrooms for interactive lessons. "In the morning, I can chat with a school in Bennington and 10 minutes later I'm chatting with Troy," Hart said.

The program connects with students in kindergarten through 6th grade and goes over four different species in four weeks. There are also pre-recorded sessions, so classes can go at their own pace. "Once they have done the lesson with us, the teacher takes over and takes the students outside and looks for evidence of the species we discussed. So, throughout the presentation, we are talking about the scat, the tracks, and other signs of evidence that the species might be behind in the woods by the school." Hart said.

The goal, Hart says, is to get students learning while getting outdoors. "They probably don't realize they are learning but they are, and it's the beauty of getting them out of the classroom and teaching the material a little different than it normally would be taught," he said.

Hart says students might not always see the animals they are searching for and that's ok. It's about what else they see and learn. "They are also going to be focused on finding the correct habitat -- that's key. If they find the species or evidence of the species, that's awesome and we are pumped for those students. But the big takeaway is the different types of habitat the species live in," he said. "We can talk about habitat in the classroom. It's another thing to get out and see it. Also, with the younger students, they might not have the understanding of species we have in Vermont, so it's important for them to get out and see the evidence that they are there."

Teachers involved in the program agree it has an impact. "It's great to have another voice and an expert in the classroom, especially for the students," said Julie Higgins, a third-grade teacher at Crasftbury Elementary School.

"What is exceptional about this program is that my students are able to interact with someone who is so well versed in their chosen field and they are able to take that knowledge and be able to go outside the classroom and be able to use critical thinking skills -- which is so important for my children," said Christy Nemeth, a first-grade teacher at Troy School. She says it has been especially useful during the pandemic to keep students engaged. "They go out there, they are measuring the tracks, they are talking with their classmates about how amazing it is to be outside. How great it is to take what they learned from Corey and go outside with that information."

"We come back when we finish and we journey. We tie in our writing and literacy standards to what we are doing and I think that's important for our kids to see that learning is not just done on a computer," Higgins said

To register for the program, educators should contact Corey Hart by emailing him at corey.hart@vermont.gov or calling him at 802-505-5562. Copyright 2022 WCAX. All rights reserved.

See video on [wcax christy nemeth](#)

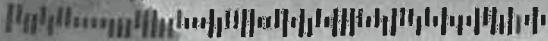


World Wildlife Fund



Troy School
Christy Nemeth
P.O. Box 110
North Troy, VT 05859-0110

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DONATION TO WWF AFTER penguin unit



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Thanks again for your support.

With gratitude,

Terry Macko
Senior Vice President

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