

Staff Spotlight: Ms. Caitlyn

Guiding Readers and Building Confidence at First Branch

At Tunbridge Elementary, Ms. Caitlyn helps students uncover one of the most empowering skills they'll ever learn: how to read. As the school's Reading Interventionist, she supports children as they gain confidence, fluency, and a sense of pride in themselves as learners.

Ms. Caitlyn's path to teaching wasn't traditional. She holds a master's in animal science and once worked in youth outreach, but it was moving to Tunbridge with her family that set her on this course. "I started subbing when my kids entered school," she says. "Before long, I was in a long-term role, then teaching full-time, and I realized this is where I'm meant to be." She later completed her teacher training through Upper Valley Educators Institute and hasn't looked back.

Her love for reading began in the second-grade classroom, where she saw firsthand how foundational those early years are. "Second grade is magical. Kids are curious, they're engaged, and teachers are still the coolest people in the world." That spark led Ms. Caitlyn to pursue advanced training through the Stern Center, earning her Orton-Gillingham Associate's Certification, which is a structured, multisensory approach to literacy that is central to her practice.

At the heart of her work is a connection to students, families, and the community she both lives and works in. "I only see a student for 30 minutes, so success really takes a team," she explains. "When families stay curious, ask questions, and celebrate small wins, kids thrive." She also credits local libraries and Tunbridge and Chelsea's strong community spirit for extending literacy learning beyond the classroom.

Ms. Caitlyn's dedication comes from both professional passion and personal experience. With three children of her own, each with different learning profiles, she understands that every reader's journey is unique. "Some kids take off right away, and others need more explicit instruction and practice. My job is to help them see that their brains may require more strategic practice and multi-sensory strategies, and that's ok."

Despite her depth of learning, Ms. Caitlyn is committed to continuous growth and understanding and eagerly explores new research and refines her craft. "The recent shifts in reading instruction and best practices emphasize neuroscience and how the brain learns," she notes. "It's amazing to see how much we've learned about the way the brain builds connections for language and literacy, and how we can use that knowledge to help every child succeed."

Outside of school, Ms. Caitlyn's world revolves around books, family, and friends. Her favorite recent read? *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. Her favorite quote from *My Friends*?

"It's a long life, but fast. One single step in the right direction can be enough."

For Ms. Caitlyn, that step toward confidence, curiosity, and lifelong learning is celebrated.



[Tunbridge Library](#)

Library Hours: Tuesday: 10 am- 5 pm, Wednesday: 3 pm- 6 pm, Thursday: 10 am- 5 pm, Friday: 3 pm- 6 pm, and Saturday: 9 am - 1 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Contact: 802-889-9404/ tunbridgelibrary@gmail.com

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Library Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 11 am- 5 pm, Saturday: 9 am - 2 pm. Closed Sundays and Mondays.

Contact: 802-685-2188/ librarian@chelsealibrary.com