

An Interview with Mrs. Park

by: Mia Danford, '26

Mrs. Morgan Park is the new librarian here at APHS. Her job is both fun and important. Her job entails organizing, finding, collect, and keeping track of all the books in the library. She also is in charge of helping kids research, study, and locate what they need. While she has worked in other schools before, she has never worked in a school as large as this one. Her previous job was at Milfred Central School. It was all grades K-12, but there were only about 400 students in the whole school! She is excited and ready to take on this bigger challenge and to help more kids find a love for literature. She has already taken on a new initiative with the FabLab (a place in the library mezzanine to create and learn new things), and she already has started to prepare updated genre signs. Though she misses her old school and its quaint simplicity, she is amazed by the diversity and opportunity that Averill Park provides.

Park may miss the personal connections she was able to make with each student, but she doesn't miss the isolation her old job caused. She moved from Milfred due to the tedious amount of time she had to spend driving to the closest grocery store or the "local" places most towns have. Park recalls having to take hour-long drives just for groceries! So, she and her wife mutually agreed it was time to move. Currently, Park is taking half-hour daily commutes to work, but she is looking for a new home to settle in. She is currently living in Cherry Valley with her wife and two dogs. Her dogs are both Australian Shepards, but one is about 8 years old and the other is much older. Park's favorite things to do are to watch sci-fi or dystopian-themed movies or read Jane Austen or any science fiction book. She lives by the motto that everyone should be themselves no matter what, and that everyone should always do what makes them happy. Park loves science fiction because it reminds her of a more realistic version of fantasy and she finds Jane Austen very comforting and intriguing.

Park has always felt compelled towards jobs that involved literary elements. At 13, she wrote her first official book. It may not have been published, but it is still something she is proud of to this day. As a child, she was just like any other kid now. She attended Richfield Springs for school and was always successful both athletically and academically. She ran track and played on the basketball team. She connected with many because of her love of reading and nature. Though, it's hard not to bond with everyone in your grade when there are only 30 of you! She debated many jobs before deciding on becoming a teacher or school librarian. In her young teens, she dreamt of being a famous writer. Eventually, she realized she needed a more stable job



and began considering other options. She wanted to become a lawyer because she loved persuading and conversing with people. Her value and love for knowledge would also come in handy for this job. Becoming a journalist was also an appealing job for her, as she adored writing and seeking out the truth. But, her final decision to go into schooling to become someone who works in the literary field with kids came about because of her high school science teacher. This teacher helped Park through a rough time in high school and inspired her to do the same with students of the next generation. We welcome Mrs. Park to APHS and look forward to seeing her in the library this year!