

# Jake Carlson

*St. Charles, IL*



Jake is a third-year high school English teacher who currently teaches at St. Charles East High School in St. Charles, Illinois. Jake started teaching in January 2020 and quickly realized that student choice was an important factor in getting his students to actually read. He was surprised and encouraged when his students began to experience pleasure and joy when reading books that they liked.

Since then, Jake has prioritized daily choice reading time - and daily choice writing time - above all else, and his students have grown so much through these practices. During the 2021-2022 school year, his students read more than 7 books on average. As of the end of February in the 2022-2023 school year, his students had already read 5 books and 1,200 pages on average. While achieving this high volume of reading, Jake's students have expressed their passion for reading through their engagement in conferences, book clubs, and self-assessments. Jake knows he can find the right book for each of his students that will spark their curiosity and passion and pleasure that they need to become a lifelong reader.