

Madison Martin

Tell City, Indiana



Madison is an 8th grade English teacher at Tell City Jr-Sr. High School in Tell City, IN, and she is influencing students to change the world one book at a time. Although this is her first year of teaching, she has been preparing for this opportunity for as long as she can remember. Even before starting her career as an educator, she recognized the incredible power of reading and literacy as a tool through which people can learn about different cultures, explore new ideas, and relate to common experiences.

With the belief that independent choice reading should be an integral part of her teaching practices, she spent countless hours independently curating and cataloging a classroom library of nearly 500 books even before setting foot in her first classroom. She has also established a strong collaboration with the local library to bring more books to kids.

Now, she has seen her lifelong dream become a reality as she is able to open the hearts and minds of the students she teaches through the literature they read. Already, she has seen students transformed and empowered by their daily habit of reading. Students who had never previously finished a book are now voracious readers, coming to class excited to share their knowledge and newfound passion for reading. It is her hope that with this grant, she can continue to expand her students' access to new and diverse books in order to sustain and foster student engagement on their journey to becoming lifelong readers. As Malala Yousafzai once said, "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."