



For the next several weeks, we are focusing on careers in Education. Education is an important part of life. The amount and type of education that individuals receive is a major influence on both the types of jobs they are able to hold and their earnings. Lifelong learning is important in acquiring new knowledge and upgrading one's skills, particularly in this age of rapid technological and economic changes. The educational services industry includes a variety of institutions that offer academic education, career and technical instruction, and other education and training to millions of students each year.

# CAREERS IN EDUCATION

## The type of work

- Adapt teaching methods and instructional materials to meet students' varying needs and interests.
- Establish and enforce rules for behavior and procedures for maintaining order among students.
- Confer with parents or guardians, other teachers, counselors, and administrators to resolve students' behavioral and academic problems.
- Maintain accurate, complete, and correct student records as required by laws, district policies, and administrative regulations.
- Prepare, administer, and grade tests and assignments to evaluate students' progress.
- Prepare materials and classrooms for class activities.
- Instruct through lectures, discussions, and demonstrations in one or more subjects, such as English, mathematics, or social studies.
- Establish clear objectives for all lessons, units, and projects, and communicate these objectives to students.

## More Facts ?

Licenses, Certifications, and Registrations: All states require teachers in public schools to be licensed or certified. Those who teach in private schools are not usually required to be licensed. Certification of middle school teachers varies considerably from state to state. In some states, they are certified to teach elementary school grades, which are typically first through sixth grades or first through eighth grades. In other states, they are certified to teach middle school grades, which include sixth through eighth grades. Still other states provide middle school teachers with a secondary school or high school certification, which often includes seventh through twelfth grades.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS

**Miss Nicole Bevelacqua**  
6th Grade Math Teacher  
Elyria City Schools  
Northwood Middle School

Teach students in one or more subjects in public or private schools at the middle, intermediate, or junior high level, which falls between elementary and senior high school as defined by applicable laws and regulations.

## THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

In 2014 there were approximately 627,500 individuals employed as middle school teachers nationwide with a projected increase of 6% over the next ten years, while in Ohio, there were 26,140 middle school teachers with a projected increase of 13%. Growth is projected due to expected increases in enrollment combined with declines in student-teacher ratios. However, employment growth will vary by region.

## EARNINGS POTENTIAL

Location	Low	Median	High
United States .....	\$37,390.....	\$54,940 .....	\$84,610
Ohio .....	\$37,870.....	\$60,510 .....	\$83,550
Cleveland-Elyria-Mentor, OH PMSA .....	\$36,740.....	\$63,550 .....	\$86,990

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## Pathways to success:

All states require public middle school teachers to have at least a bachelor's degree. Many states require middle school teachers to major in a content area, such as math or science. Other states require middle school teachers to major in elementary education. Those who major in a content area typically enroll in their university's teacher preparation program and take classes in education and child psychology in addition to the classes required by their major.

Teacher education programs teach prospective middle school teachers how to present information to students and how to work with students of varying abilities and backgrounds. Programs typically include fieldwork such as student teaching. For information about teacher preparation programs in your state, visit [Teach.org](http://Teach.org).

Teachers in private schools do not need to meet state requirements. However, private schools typically seek middle school teachers who have a bachelor's degree and a major in elementary education or a content area.



## What Employers look for in individuals:

- English Language - structure and content of the English language including the meaning and spelling of words, rules of composition, and grammar.
- Education and Training - principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- Computers and Electronics - circuit boards, processors, chips, electronic equipment, and computer hardware and software, including applications and programming.
- Mathematics - arithmetic, algebra, geometry, calculus, statistics, and their applications.
- Psychology - human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.
- Customer and Personal Service - principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- Communications and Media - media production, communication, and dissemination techniques and methods. This includes alternative ways to inform and entertain via written, oral, and visual media.
- Public Safety and Security - relevant equipment, policies, procedures, and strategies to promote effective local, state, or national security operations for the protection of people, data, property, and institutions.

### Q. How did you become interested in your particular field?

A. I wanted to pick a career where I could make a difference and I wanted my family to be proud of me. Growing up I had no idea what that would be. When I was in high school I struggled with my math teacher my freshman year. I could not understand anything he taught me. I was frustrated and hated math at that point. Thankfully, my parents pushed me to retake the class the next year. I had a C average and could have moved on, but the foundational skills I needed for the next course weren't there. The teacher my sophomore year was amazing! It was like a lightbulb went off for me. That was the moment I knew that I would become a teacher. I wanted to make a difference!

### Q. How did you get to where you are today?

A. I was born and raised in Northeast Ohio. I have very supportive parents and am lucky enough to have 5 big brothers. Through their support I was able to focus on my education. I was extremely blessed and found a job right out of college. I worked for two years at a Catholic school in Cleveland. I knew that public education was where I really wanted to be, so I took a risk and left at the end of the year without a job lined up for the fall. I interviewed at Northwood Junior High two weeks prior to the start of the school year. I have worked the last 15 years at Northwood. The staff is one of the best. They are so supportive and it truly does feel like family.

### Q. What skills or certifications do you think are needed to be successful in this field?

A. A solid foundation of education classes from college are needed to be a teacher. You must have a Bachelor's Degree and must work towards a Master's Degree. I was a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College (thanks mom and dad for all the sacrifices) with a concentration in mathematics. I have a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Education from Bowling Green State University. Besides having the educational background, you also need to be able to relate to the children. Building relationships is the key to igniting passion in education for a child. Teachers are not just teachers; they have to be a role model, a nurse, a counselor, an actor, a disciplinarian, a motivational speaker, a mentor, a social worker and so much more. It takes hard work, devotion, long hours and a lot of self-awareness to be successful.

### Q. What changes have you seen over the last few years?

A. One of the biggest changes has been the increased use of technology in every educational discipline. My math students are piloting a digital textbook this year. It may be way out of my comfort zone, but they seem to like it. My honors students are completing their homework online. They get to know instantly if they are right or wrong and are able to complete similar questions until they grasp the material. We use websites like IXL as a way to reinforce the material we are learning in class. I have been granted an endowment grant the last two years for a website called Flocabulary. This site has hip-hop songs which tie in with what I teach. Our students are so technologically savvy. I believe Elyria schools are on the right track to graduate students who will flourish in this digital era.

### Q. What is the best part of your job?

A. This is the easiest question to answer. The best part of my job is seeing a student leave my room feeling confident in their math ability. People always say that you are either good at math or you aren't. That is not true. Math is all about confidence. If you believe you can do it, you will. I teach my students that perseverance is essential in learning. We may not get the right answer the first time, but we don't give up. We keep trying until we get it right. We persevere and that helps build confidence. With perseverance and confidence, anything is possible.

## Sponsors



## Elyria City School District



Ensuring that each child reaches his or her full potential

Sources: Occupational Information Network, O\*Net Online, <http://online.onetcenter.org>, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook, <http://stats.bls.gov/ocoeHow.com>