



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

The Southampton Union Free School District strongly believes that our future leaders benefit greatly from an education that involves EVERY member of the school district community. Knowing this, each staff member takes great pride in playing a role that directly influences student growth. Through our Staff Spotlight series, we will introduce the community to these dedicated employees, starting with the newest members of our Southampton team. Each individual joins our district with skills and experience that will enable our students and district to flourish.

CATHERINE LAMB

SOUTHAMPTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Hometown:
Kings Park, New York

Name of high school attended:
Kings Park High School

College(s), major(s) and certifications:

- Saint Joseph's College, B.A. in Child Study & Communication Studies
- Saint Joseph's College, M.A. in Infant and Toddler Early Childhood Special Education
- Saint Joseph's College, Advanced Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)
- Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA)
- Professional Teaching Certificate in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2), Childhood Education (Grades 1-6), Students with Disabilities: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) and Students with Disabilities: Childhood Education (Grades 1-6)

Achievements: After a lot of hard work and countless hours of studying, I passed my certification exam and achieved my dream of becoming a BCBA. I ran a 10k with my fiancé and we are now training for a half-marathon. I volunteered for eight summers at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp and earned a congratulatory tote bag that I use almost every day. I visited all four parks in Disney World in one day!

Hobbies: I love to bake and share whatever I make with my family and friends. My new favorite thing to make is French macarons. I enjoy reading at home snuggled up on my couch and listening to audiobooks when I drive. I like going for long runs on sunny days and spinning on my stationary bike on rainy days. I am a big lover of food and I am always up to trying new foods with my friends. And finally, I love to curl up on the couch and watch a Disney movie or a new Netflix show.

Career aspirations as a child: As a child, I always wanted to be a zookeeper because I loved animals and I watched Animal Planet every single day after school. For most of my childhood, I was pretty convinced I was going to be the next Steve Irwin. However, I eventually fell in love with teaching and knew I wanted to help students with all abilities. But to this day, I still know a bunch of random animal facts and I will always try to go to a zoo or an aquarium whenever I visit a new city.

Reason for selecting Southampton: I started off my career thinking I was going to be a special education teacher, but through my studies I found applied behavior analysis (ABA), which led me to my new goal: becoming a BCBA. However, after working for a few agencies providing home-based ABA services and running a social skills program for children with autism, I knew I wanted to get back to my roots and work in a school again. While researching several districts, I came across Southampton and immediately knew it was the place for me. I love the district's dedication to not just academic achievement, but also the social and emotional growth of its students and their focus on kindness and compassion. I cannot wait to join the rest of the staff in helping the students to reach their fullest potential, all while creating a fun and supportive environment for them to learn and grow in.

Other thoughts: I am genuinely so excited to be a part of the Southampton team!

