

2024 Educator Excellence Award Winner



Grace Hourigan

University of Pittsburgh

I grew up in Severna Park, Maryland with my mom, dad, and two brothers. I was very inspired by my mom, an elementary school guidance counselor, and by my amazing teachers. In 2019, I began my college career at the University of Pittsburgh. I chose to join CASE, a teacher preparation program that combined child psychology with best practices for teaching. On top of that, I completed a minor in Linguistics and served as secretary of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Educational Honor Society. In 2023, I graduated with my Bachelor's in Applied Developmental Psychology and began to work towards my Master's in Education. Throughout my time in the CASE program, I have had 4 diverse and influential student teaching placements both in general education and special education. I have also been a substitute teacher across Anne Arundel County, Maryland. My amazing mentor teachers and professors have shaped me into the person and educator I am today. I plan to earn my Master's in April 2024 and move back to Maryland and teach kindergarten or 1st grade. I have a passion for incorporating art, music, and play into curriculums to support early learning. In my spare time, I love to read and spend time with my family and friends.