



Danielle Kopp (Schmidt), Class of 2003

When I entered Caldwell as a freshman, I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I thought I'd teach elementary school. After doing some field work, I realized that I was not meant to work with the little ones and quickly switched my major to secondary education. I was already majoring in English. I graduated Magna Cum Laude in 2003, won the education department award, and have been teaching English for the last 16 years! I also earned a Masters degree from Marygrove College and have 75 additional graduate credits in the fields of English and education. I spent 10 years teaching 8th grade English at Sparta Middle School and the last 6 years teaching at Sparta High School, focusing on British and World Literature and Contemporary Literature. Twice I was awarded the "Governor's Teacher of the Year Award" in my district, in 2009 and 2014. The years I spent as part of the English Department at Caldwell College were some of the best of my life. To be guided by such caring and intelligent professors was such a gift. I enjoyed every single class that I took and I still pull out my Norton anthologies and use some of the pieces with my own English students. The English department increased my love of literature and writing and gave me examples of excellent teaching. I clearly remember when I came to the end of my journey thinking that my one regret was that I didn't have time to take all the classes I wished I could take- I always craved more. Now I focus on passing along these gifts to my own students. Caldwell will forever be a home to me and I love going back and participating in The Gathering and reconnecting with professors and classmates. These times revitalize me and remind me why I love

teaching English. I don't know what the future holds for me, but I know that what I've learned at Caldwell College will continue to be the backbone of my career.

Danielle lives in Rockaway, NJ with her husband of 12 years, Jason (also a teacher) and their two children, Brayden, age 10 and Quinn age 8.

