

Biography of Steven Watson

Steven Watson comes to Watertown High from the Josiah Quincy Upper School (JQUS), a pilot school for over five hundred students in grades six through twelve in Boston. Steve is a senior teacher leader at JQUS, where he partners with a small team in leading the school. While Steve's work has involved all areas of school management, his greatest experience is in curricular and instructional improvement. Steve is the founding coordinator of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme at JQUS and has played a large role in bringing the work of IB into the Boston Public Schools. He also has worked with the teachers of his young school to develop and document curriculum for all grades and disciplines. Steve has been responsible for directing his school's instructional leadership team in identifying best teaching practices, developing structures and strategies for collaborative teacher practice, and articulating vision and plans for effective professional development. Steve also leads in the area of school operations where he is involved in student support and discipline as well as decisions about staffing, budget, family and community engagement, and facilities.

Prior to Steve's current role, he was the English and humanities subject leader and the curriculum team leader at JQUS, coordinating the work of the subject leaders of all disciplines taught in the school. While helping to lead his school, Steve has continued to teach and advise students. Steve has taught English and humanities, instructing students in grades eight through twelve, including special education inclusion classes and both AP English Language and Literature. Over the past four summers, Steve has also taught writing in Harvard University's Crimson Summer Academy, a college preparatory program for highly motivated, low-income urban high school students.

A lifelong resident of Massachusetts, Steve has received his education at institutions throughout the greater Boston area. He earned his Bachelor's degree in music at Brandeis University, where he graduated summa cum laude. Steve studied curriculum and instruction in secondary education at the University of Massachusetts Boston, where he earned his Masters in Education. He later studied school leadership and earned his principal's certification through the Principal Residency Network, a joint venture of the Center for Collaborative Education and Northeastern University. Steve has also received professional training through the International Baccalaureate Organization, Facing History and Ourselves, and Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Beyond the teaching of writing and literature, Steve's professional interests focus on innovations in education that will help bring schools into the 21st century and make education as meaningful, relevant, and rigorous as possible for students and their teachers. Steve has particular interest in performance-based assessment and student choice and collaboration in classroom learning.

Prior to his work in public education, Steve was involved in leadership development, cross-cultural service learning, and pastoral work with college students. Outside of school, Steve maintains an active leadership role in his church and on the steering committee of the Boston Teacher Action Network. He lives with his wife, his mother in law and his three children just outside of Watertown, where Steve enjoys running road races and kayaking up the Charles with his kids.