

Name: Mr. Brody Anderson

Describe your educational background and professional experience:

My educational background is I hold an Associates Degree in Arts from Sauk Valley Community College, a Bachelor's Degree in History from Monmouth College with a Professional Educators License in 9-12 History/Social Studies and Special Education. Currently, I'm working on my Master's Degree in Special Education from Western Illinois University. I've been employed working at Riverdale High School teaching 9-12 History and Special Education. I teach Advanced Placement American History, Modern History, Current Affairs, World History, American History, and Study Skills. At Riverdale, I also am the National Honor Society Sponsor and the Junior Varsity Scholastic Bowl Coach. This is my second year at Riverdale High School. Before coming to Riverdale I worked at Ohio High School for a year and did my student teaching at Bureau Valley. Before going into the field of education I worked as a Production Manager at Sislors's Ice and Ice Cream in Ohio, Illinois, as well as a Department Manager at Walmart in Princeton, IL. While in college I worked as a Resident Assistant for Monmouth College and I worked as a Radio Presenter for WPFS one of the local radio stations in Monmouth, IL.

Describe your community interests and/or volunteer experience:

I strongly believe that the cornerstone to any strong community comes from the children. If the children have opportunities to express themselves and are supported they will flourish. This is why I strongly support the students at Riverdale by being there for them at extracurricular events and being supportive of them at any time. I often spend time keeping score for football and basketball games. Additionally, I volunteer at the River Valley Library on Saturday mornings with Dungeons and Dragon's program making sure that the program is successful every week. I do this as it provides the opportunity for the students to see me in a different light which I feel is important in building a successful relationship with the youth. Before moving to the area I also volunteered on Saturday mornings at the Ohio Public Library doing circulation and clerical work.

Describe any experience working with or on elected, appointed, or volunteer boards:

Often times during my job I work with committees and boards in order to make the school run more successfully. I'm currently on the School Improvement Committee at Riverdale which we as the staff work together with the administrative team we are able to delegate resources, achieve a dialog between staff and administration, and overall make the school a more successful place. As the National Honor Society Supervisor, I work with the student lead NHS executive board in order to guide them in making the organization successful. Working with them we are done a variety of fundraisers which have helped out the community including "Shop with a Cop" which buys Christmas Presents for children who may not have a Christmas otherwise and Bethany's Hygienics Fundraiser where we take donations for families who may not have basic items for keeping good hygiene. I'm very proud of my NHS board and what they do to help out the community.

Describe your experience with the River Valley District Library:

The library has been a wonderful resource for me here in the community. A week after I moved to Port Byron I was in the library checking out books and reading. Between the collection that the library has and the access to PrairieCat which allows me to access the catalogs of other libraries I always have access to a good book. Before I had internet at my apartment the library helped me out greatly with the ability to check out a mobile hotspot which allowed myself to stay connected to my students with the COVID-19 Pandemic closed down the schools. I have attended programs and have set up for some in my free time to help the library as well as the aforementioned weekly work I do with the Dungeons and Dragons program. The library is a hypercritical resource for the community which has helped me out greatly succeed in my personal and professional endeavors.

Why do you want to be a trustee for the River Valley District Library?

I want to be a trustee for the River Valley Library because the library has given so much to me and I would like to give back to it. The staff at the library has been some of the nicest people I've ever met. They have been helpful to me when I was getting settled in the area, and I have made some great connections with these people. If the resources at the library were not there I don't know if I would be as happy and successful in the community as I am. I thank the library for what they have done and I look forward to serving them even more if I am selected as a trustee for the library.