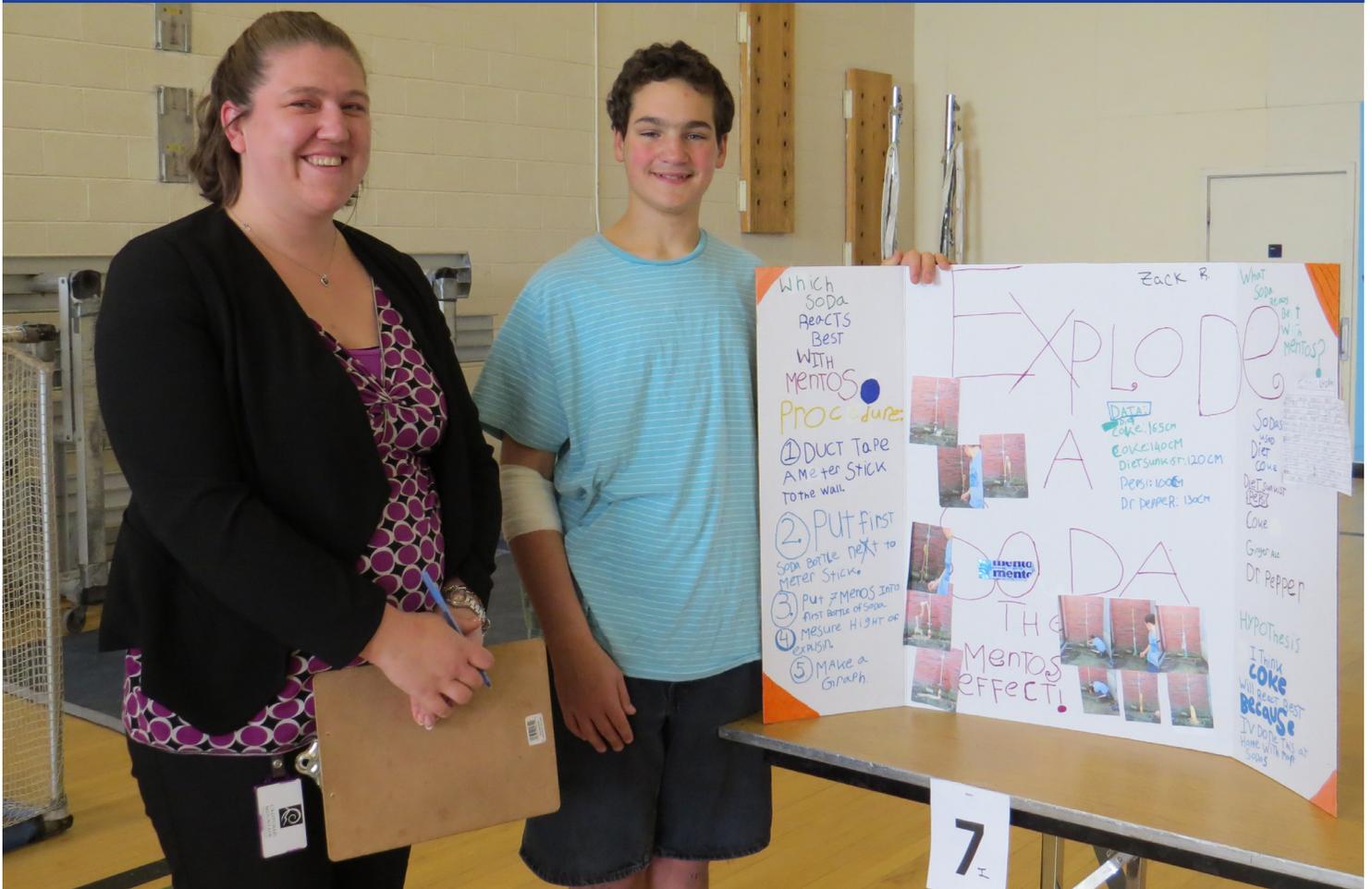




# CROTCHED MOUNTAIN SCHOOL

## Meet Andra Hall, Ed.D., Director of Education Crotched Mountain School



### What brought you to Crotched Mountain?

I was finishing up my undergraduate degree at Rivier College and planning to pursue a career as a psychologist or counselor. My best friend was interviewed at Crotched Mountain for an LNA position and told me about this special place called Crotched Mountain School. At the time, I was completing my counseling classes and simultaneously realizing that a career in counseling was not what I wanted to do. I interviewed with Crotched Mountain and they hired me as a teacher's assistant.

When I think back, Crotched Mountain is the reason I went into education. Being in a classroom made me realize that I enjoyed helping students grow and learn, and to be a part of that journey is something very special. Instead of pursuing my master's degree in counseling at Antioch, I decided to pursue a master's degree in education instead.

**Contact us to learn how our services can help children to learn and thrive.**

## Now that you are school principal, what do you hope to achieve?

I am very proud and excited to take on the leadership of Crotched Mountain School. We have such a strong, compassionate, dedicated group of teachers and paraprofessionals who are committed to supporting the educational and rehabilitative needs of our students. I am very honored and humbled to serve the teachers and our students in my new role.

Some of the areas I plan to work on in the days and months ahead are to:

- Grow an even stronger vocational program for our students
- Expand our community connections to include not only vocational activities, but also extended learning opportunities for our students
- Expand our curriculum development capacity alongside our co-principals Colleen Elliott and Ami O'Keefe
- Gain a better understanding of the needs of my administrative team and the teachers
- Improve our transitional process to better support our students and their families
- Move away from self-contained classrooms for students pursuing a high school diploma and enable them to move between classrooms taught by professional teachers skilled in specific areas
- Develop leadership skills among our paraprofessionals by instituting a mentoring program and training paraprofessionals to be classroom and group home lead staff

## What inspires you about your job?

The students inspire me ... everyday! I recall years ago, I was working one-on-one with a student who was dealing with a challenging set of circumstances, physically and emotionally. We had just introduced Gentle Teaching to the organization, which helps build trust between a teacher and a student, strengthen relationships and provide predictability in routine. I was inspired to see that, with patience, consistency and trust, this student was eventually able to successfully participate in a group.

## What's the best part of your day?

### Every interaction I have with the students!

I love it when they come to see me in my office, or I visit them in their classrooms. It helps me to stay focused on building an academic and vocational program that increases our students' skills and helps them to become contributing members of their communities.

### Accomplishments:

- Adapted a 3-tier system for Common Core state standards
- Built a transition curriculum for students exceeding the 12 traditional years of schooling
- Instituted a monthly early-release day for professional development for teachers on curriculum use, Universal Design for Learning, and the use of technology
- Developed a general education high school curriculum connected to Common Core standards

### Certifications

NH State Board of Education Certified Educator with endorsements in the areas of general elementary education, general special education and principal. Certified as a Waldorf Education Teacher.

### Education

Ed.D. in K-12 administration and educational leadership from New England College in May 2015, master's degree in education from Antioch University New England in 2007, bachelor's degree in psychology and biology from Rivier College in 2005.

### Experience

12+ years working at Crotched Mountain School holding various teaching and leadership positions at all levels, including paraprofessional, residential counselor, classroom teacher, curriculum coordinator and assistant principal. Named principal in May 2015, responsible for strategic planning, curriculum and professional development, budget and daily administrative duties.

### Current teaching roles

Adjunct professor at New England College teaching "Meeting the Needs of All Learners."



CROTCHED MOUNTAIN SCHOOL