

Early College of Arvada Spotlight: Caroline Fink

This month, ECA is excited to spotlight Caroline Fink, one of our extraordinary math teachers. Ms. Fink grew up in Lexington, MA. After graduating high school in 2008, she went to Hofstra University where she double majored in secondary education and mathematics and minored in Japanese Language and culture. She graduated in 2012 and the following year moved to Japan with the JET Program. JET is sponsored by the Japanese government and brings native English speakers into Japanese classrooms. Ms. Fink worked in the city of Kitakyushu in various schools. When school was not in session, she worked for the Board of Education by interviewing potential teachers, providing translation services, and creating curriculum. She moved back to the US in 2015 and began working for ECA in January of 2016.

In addition to her passions for teaching, math, and Japanese language and culture, Ms. Fink also loves to sing. She performed in a cappella groups in both high school and college, sang in a band while in Japan, and has done various shows around Denver performing at the PACE Center, the Bug Theater, and the Denver Botanic Gardens. Additionally, many of the Denver shows were alongside ECA drama teacher Kelly Graham.

Ms. Fink is serious about making math accessible and interesting to all students. "I want students to leave my class feeling that math is an approachable subject. I want students who come in saying they are not 'math people' to gain the skills to continue their education confidently in all subjects." Ms. Fink is a good fit with ECA's culture, where trust between staff and students encourages creativity and curiosity. She adds, "the freedom ECA gives me to create my own lessons and projects allows me to better engage students and helps students develop a deeper understanding of mathematics and logic."

Caroline Fink's dedication to engaging her students is just one example of the ways ECA staff support students in making connections between their classroom lessons and their real-world significance. With seven Ph.D.'s on our staff in addition to talented teachers like Ms. Fink, our students are supported from grades 6-12 as they strive to meet the challenging goal of graduating high school with 60 hours of college credit. Representing a potential savings of \$30,000 for families at no extra cost, these college courses are all taught on ECA's safe, secure, and welcoming campus. If you think ECA might be a fit for your student, call Executive Director Todd Cordrey at 720-473-4403 to schedule a tour or reserve a seat for next school year.