

Alex Moen
School Counselor, Work Based Learning Coordinator

Where did you grow up?

Golden Valley, MN, in a suburban neighborhood no one can find. We got an ice cream truck one time one summer because he got lost. It was exciting.

Why did you become a counselor?

I was working in corporate retail, and started volunteering in an adult ESL classroom for fun. I knew I didn't want to stay in the corporate world, and being in a classroom felt really good. Education had always been of interest to me, and I had an undergrad degree in psychology, so I thought, "education + psychology = school counseling". I completed my grad program while working full-time, and earned my Master's and certification in K-12 school counseling in 2013.



Why did you choose to work at Augsburg Fairview Academy? Why a charter school and not a public school?

I wanted to work for students who are underserved, and who don't typically have access to the services a school counselor provides. AFA didn't have a counselor before me! Charter schools offer more flexibility and independence, so I can work on what I feel is truly important, as opposed to following guidelines that were put in place years ago by someone else.

What do you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I like the collaborative aspect of the school, that staff, students, and community members can create the school together. We can make changes quickly, and we're able to focus on the highest priorities and most effective ways of improvement.

What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about education?

"Education" is very different from "the school system." A person's education develops in different places, through different experiences, and over a lifetime. I wish our school system was better designed to support this. I would argue for more options in education (including self-directed programs and more charter schools), which would allow an individual to select a path to learning and growing that would meet their unique needs, goals, and strengths. We are not cookies; we cannot thrive in a cookie-cutter world.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about enrolling at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Doooo itttt. We are a small school, so we are able to help you design a path to graduation and beyond that fits you as an individual.

What are your hobbies?

I like to dance (Irish), sing (folk songs and musicals), read, draw, make crafts, and learn new things. Also, trying to make friends with every animal I meet.

If you weren't working at Augsburg Fairview Academy, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like?

Cuddling a pile of kittens? My dream is to open a year-round petting zoo in the Twin Cities. It's gonna happen, I swear.

How would your students describe you?

I am helpful and fun, but I have high expectations, and I stick to them. One student said of me, "She wants a better future for us." There ya go.

