

Heidi Anderson Executive Director

Where did you grow up?

On a farm in Saxon, Wisconsin

What were your experiences in High School?

I attended a K-12 school, so learned with the same 50 or so classmates from Kindergarten through high school. I participated in sports, band and a number of clubs. I was also highly active in 4-H at the local and state level.



Where did you go to school?

Hurley K-12 School, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Minnesota State University - Mankato

Why did you become a teacher / para / other?

Since I was young, all I ever wanted to do was teach. I have never considered a career outside of education as I enjoy teaching and mentoring youth. In my current role as Executive Director, I am less hands-on teaching youth so my goal is to empower AFA teachers and staff to lead and educate youth with the support and resources needed to achieve excellence.



Where did you work before Augsburg Fairview Academy?

AmeriCorps / Minnesota Alliance With Youth
Barron Area School District
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire: Area Research Center and Counseling Services
Iron County Forestry Department
Whitecap Mountains
Iron County Extension

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

I was offered a Promise Fellow position at AFA in 2007 and jumped at the chance to serve. Since that year of service, I choose to stay at AFA because I love the AFA Community and I believe in the mission, vision and work that the AFA founders set forth when developing the school. I have participated in the growth and development of our school for nine years. I have the opportunity to continually learn and grow with the scholars, teacher and staff in a safe and supportive environment. I cherish this opportunity and am thankful that youth throughout the metro area choose AFA and love our school as much as I do.

What was your first impression of Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Hard-working scholars and caring adults.

What has surprised you most about working at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

Everything that a large traditional district is responsible for happens within our building!

What do you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I like that AFA is a safe and supportive environment for youth to not only learn the required academic standards, but grow socially, emotionally, mentally, physically, spiritually, culturally, and build their capacity for lifelong wellness.

What don't you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I wish we had more space such as a gymnasium/auditorium. I will work to move this wish toward reality.

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

I believe in school choice and that a free, intercultural and rigorous education is a civil right and social justice indicator.



What's your personal philosophy on what should be done about education?

Education must extend beyond the four walls of a school building. The scholars, teachers, staff, administration, school board, parents and guardians cannot work on an island. Moving further into the 21st Century, the entire community must unite to provide college and career readiness opportunities for youth to explore their talents and passions.

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

Take a chance on AFA. We are a small and supportive environment where you will not only find a high-quality education, you will make lifelong connections to open-minded youth, caring adults and the support you need to achieve your goals.

What are your hobbies?

Spending time with my family and loved ones, international travel, reading, strategy games, watching reality tv and raising my dogs, Penny, Sam and Jake.

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

I would prefer to stay in the charter world or work toward developing a single purpose charter school authorizer. If outside of education, I would love to be a veterinarian or work with animals in another capacity.



What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I grew up on a farm when I showed both dairy cows and beef market steers. I

love animals and have three dogs that have very distinct personalities. Jake is a 2 year old Doberman Pinscher, Sam is a 3 year old Ivory Lab, and Penny is a 5 year old mixed breed dog.

How would your students describe you?

High expectations, funny when you get to know me, hard-working and will go the extra mile for students.